

Men  
Women  
Sa Mo Swanze y

Discipline:  
Handwritten

1672-~~1782~~ 1763

EARLY MEETING OF FRIENDS  
FOR NEW ENGLAND



166.40.1

No.

301

Sa. Mo.

Men

Women

Discipline

1672-~~1782~~ 1763

YEARLY MEETING OF FRIENDS  
FOR NEW ENGLAND

Swansey Monthly Meeting,  
of  
Friends.



Christian & Brotherly  
AdVICES.

given forth from time to time,  
by the

Yearly Meeting  
in  
London.

Alphabetically digested  
under  
Proper Heads.

Transcribed & Examined by  
John Pope of Boston. 1763.







No.	Sa. Mo.
30	Men
	Women
	Discipline
	1672-1782
	YEARLY MEETING OF FRIENDS FOR NEW ENGLAND



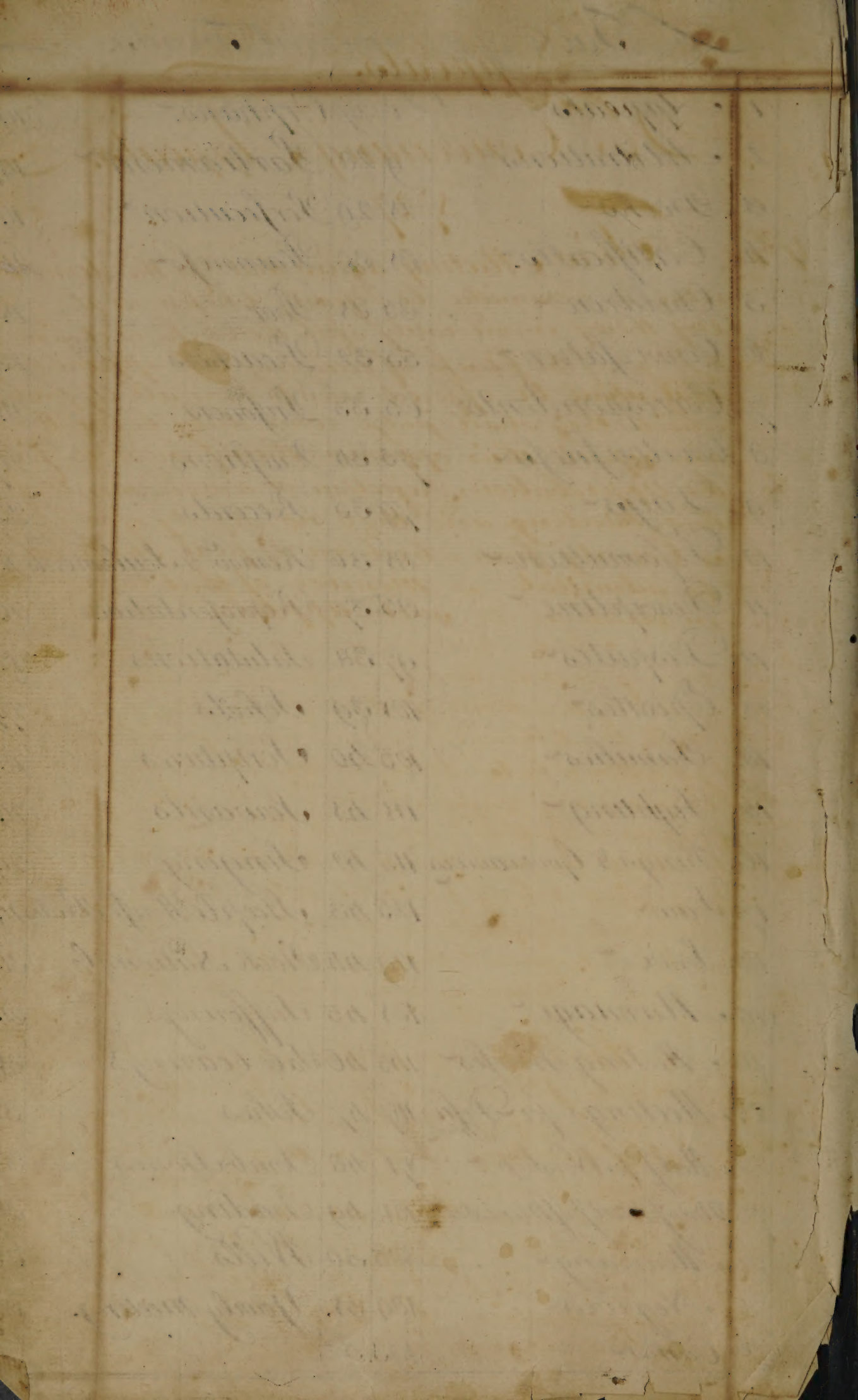




# Table of the several Heads.

N <sup>o</sup>	Page	N <sup>o</sup>	Page
1 Appeals	1	27 Orphans.	195
2 Arbitrations	9	28 Parliament.	197
3 Books	21	29 Persecution	199
4 Certificates	31	30 Plainness	203
5 Children	35	31 Poor	215
6 Conversation	53	32 Preachers	231
7 Correspondents	65	33 Prisoners	245
8 Covetousness	75	34 Questions	247
9 Days	79	35 Records	253
10 Defamation	81	36 Remov <sup>e</sup> & Settlements	261
11 Discipline	85	37 Representatives	269
12 Disputes	97	38 Salutations	275
13 Epistles	101	39 Sch <sup>o</sup> ls	277
14 Families	105	40 Scriptures	281
15 Fighting	111	41 Servants	293
16 Kings & Governours	115	42 Singing	297
17 Law	125	43 Steeple House Rates	299
18 Love	129	44 Stock National	301
19 Marriage	131	45 Sufferings	305
20 Meeting Houses	115	46 Tale bearing &c	315
21 Meetings for <sup>Discipline</sup> Discipline	117	47 Tithes	321
22 Meet <sup>g</sup> for Worship	171	48 Tomb-Stones	339
23 Morn <sup>g</sup> Meet <sup>g</sup> of Ministers	181	49 Trading	341
24 Mourning	185	50 Wills	353
25 Negroes	189	51 Yearly meeting.	357
26 Oaths	193	52	







# Appeals.

## No. 1. Concerning Appeals.

1727

This Meeting agrees that for the time to come a Committee be Yearly Chosen at the opening thereof immediately after the Clerk is chosen to judge of the fitness of receiving all appeals that shall be offered and to hear all Appeals which they shall judge come duly before them and report their opinion thereof in order for the approbation, Rejection or amendment of this Meeting, and that no deputy of any City or County from which an Appeal shall come be admitted as member of that Committee in relation to such Appeals.

And whereas it is inconvenient that the time of Appeals should be unlimited it is therefore agreed by this Meeting that if any person or persons shall think him or themselves injured or aggrieved by the Monthly two Weeks or other Meetings, of which

he she or they were a Member or Members, such persons may then appeal to the Quarterly Meeting to which the said Monthly two Weeks or other Meeting doth belong provided notice be given of such intended Appeal in three Months after such judgment given & the Appeal be lodged in such Quarterly Meeting within six months after such Notice.

And if any person or persons be dissatisfied with the Judgment of any Quarterly Meeting they may appeal from such Judgment to the Yearly Meeting: he she or they giving Notice to the said Quarterly Meeting of their Intention to appeal within six Months after the Judgment of such Quarterly Meeting be given. And such Appeal be brought to the next Yearly Meeting, if it may with conveniency, or to the next following after it.

And

1727  
Committee  
to be  
Yearly  
Chosen  
to judge  
of all  
Appeals

Time  
Limited

From  
Monthly  
or two Weeks  
to Quarterly  
Meetings

From  
Quarterly  
to Yearly  
Meetings



# Appeals.

§ 27

from Monthly  
or other  
to the Yearly  
Meeting  
directly

And if any Monthly, two Weeks or other Meeting do not belong to any Quarterly Meeting but are immediate Members of the Yearly Meeting that their persons appealing from the Judgment of such Meeting, shall give notice to the said Meeting of their Intentions to Appeal within three Months after the Judgment given, and shall lodge his her, or their Appeal in the succeeding Yearly Meeting, if it may conveniently be done if not in the Yearly Meeting that shall next follow after it.

Persons  
not pursuing  
these  
directions  
excluded

And that all Persons testified against not pursuing the Directions before given with respect to the time of giving Notice, and lodging their Appeals shall be excluded from any right of appealing afterwards.

§ 28

Method for  
choosing a  
Committee

In order to put the Directions of last Yearly Meeting into Practice respecting Appeals, it is now agreed, that twelve Cities or Counties as they stand alphabetically in the correspondent Book, do each for themselves name one of their Members who are to constitute that Committee for this Year except as before excepted, and in like manner next Year, twelve Cities or Counties, as they do stand next Alphabetically in the correspondent Books are each for themselves to name one of their Members to constitute that Committee, under the same exceptions, and so successively every Year, untill all the Cities & Counties have made their Nomination, w<sup>th</sup> being finished the correspondent Books is to be begun again.

Appeals  
to be deli-  
vered on  
6<sup>th</sup> Day  
&c

And that the Service of this Committee may be as little burdensome as possible to the Friends to whose lot it shall happen, it is desired & directed, that all appeals which shall be brought from any person or plate, shall be lodged with the Clerk of this Meeting for the time being at the furthest in the afternoon of the sixth Day of the Week in the sitting of the Meeting.

And it is appointed, that at the rising of the Meeting in the same afternoon on the sixth Day of the Week, the Clerk for the time being shall read over the Names of the Friends chosen on the Committee



# Appeals.

3

1728

any seven  
of the Act

of Appeals and then acquaint them that he hath one or more Appeals (if such there be) and deliver the same unto them requesting them to proceed thereon according to the advice of this Meeting and that any seven of the said Committee so chosen shall have power to act according to the direction of the above mentioned Minute. And it is also the agreement of this Meeting that no Member of any City or County against whom an Appeal may be made be admitted a Member of said Committee.

1733

1733

No Person  
of any County  
from a right  
whom any  
Appeal  
comes to be  
Hear only

This Meeting taking into their serious consideration some Inconveniences that may attend the nominating persons to hear & judge of the fitness or unfitness of Appeals brought before this Meeting do agree, that for the time to come no Friend of any County from whence or against whom such Appeals may come shall be deemed proper or be nominated thereto, but that the Meeting proceed to a nomination of other persons in the next Counties, and that such Counties as are omitted for the reason aforesaid, be first called on next Year.

1736

1736

to prevent  
Appeals  
coming

And dear Friends, in the Spirit of the Gospel, which is peace and goodwill to all Men labour to maintain the Discipline of the Church wherein you will be favoured with Wisdom prudently to determine Affairs that may come before you and be instrumental to prevent many troublesome Appeals from coming to this Meeting which tend to prolong it and give uneasiness to Friends; and we earnestly desire all Friends who are proper Members of the Society especially such who are qualified for Service, would be careful to attend all Meetings for the Discipline of the Church.

See Illustrations Anno. 1720. page 13

1745

1745

Notice  
Appeals  
to be  
given

Whereas it is apprehended that the Minute concerning Appeals made in 1727 may leave room for some to conclude that on due notice being once given by the Applicant or Appellants to the Meeting against which he st or they may Appeal, that he she or they may be at Liberty  
without



# Appeals.

any further Notice, to bring his her or their Appeal either to the Yearly Meeting succeeding or that which followeth, This Meeting orders to prevent disputes that may arise on that Head, that if any Appealant or Appealants do not bring his her or their Appeal to the Yearly Meeting ensuing, due notice once given, that then if he she or they continue their Appeal, notice shall be repeated in writing to the Meeting against which he she or they may Appeal at least three Months preceding the Yearly Meeting

And it is agreed by this Meeting to prevent its being troubled with a repetition of Appeals, that no Appeal shall be received a second time, which hath been once determined here.

No Appeal  
to be  
received  
a second  
time



Appeals.

5















# Arbitration

(9)

## N<sup>o</sup> 2 Concerning Arbitrations.

1681<sup>h</sup> Agreed

that the choosing of Arbitrators is proper in Cases of Difference about a Man's property; but in Differences about religious matters as Schism &c the Rule of Christ is to be observed: If thy Brother shall trespass against thee &c. Matt. 18: 15, 16, & the Church being Judge.

In what Cases Arbitrators are to be chosen

1692

Advised, that in all Cases of Controversy and Difference, the Persons concerned therein, either speedily compose the Difference between themselves, or make choice of some faithful uncorrupted Friends to determine the same, and they to stand to their Determinations: or otherwise if they cannot agree upon the Choice to submit to the Monthly Meetings Choice of certain persons meet to inspect & determine the Controversy, & to stand to their upward & final Determination thereof: that such Controversies may not be continued to cause a Stink & Reproach, for they are a great shame and Scandal.

To choose Arbitrators, or to submit to the Choice of the Monthly Meeting

All Controversies to be speedily ended

and if any refuse to submit to Truth's Order, or to hear the Church of Christ, are to be disowned & testified against, according to Christ's Doctrine on that behalf.

And that Care be taken for the speedy ending of all Controversies & Differences among Friends and all Friends to take heed of being Parties with one or another for the prolonging thereof, and such persons as refuse to submit to Truth's Order, or to hear the Church of Christ, are to be disowned & testified against, according to Christ's Doctrine on that behalf.

1693

Advised, That all Differences happening in personal or Temporal Occasions be speedily ended, according to the Advice given in our last Yearly-Meeting Epistle. And if any doubtfull Point in Law be in the Case then both parties may Advise with some well knowing in the Law: for if any lust to be contentions we have no such Custom in the Churches of Christ.

in the full point in Law

1696



1696

1696 *Advised* that no friends shall go from the  
 order of Truth and former Advice to sue one another  
 at Law, but by themselves or by reference; that all Dif-  
 ferences among Friends be speedily ended, and not  
 prolonged or delayed.

And dear Friends, shun all occasions of  
 Strife and Discord, and take care to make a  
 speedy end of all Differences that are or may  
 happen among yourselves as hath been often advised,  
 and that according to the Holy Apostles Doctrine, Rom  
 12: 18: 6: vs 10 & 8.

1697

1697 *Whereas*, it sometimes happeneth to the hurt of Truth  
 and grief of many Friends that Differences do arise  
 amongst some professing Truth about outward things:  
 it is therefore by this Meeting thought convenient,  
 and advised, that when any Friend or Friends shall  
 hear of any such Difference betwixt any Friends in that  
 Meeting to which they do belong, that they forthwith  
 speak to and tenderly advise the persons between whom the  
 Difference is, to make a speedy end thereof, and if that Friend  
 or Friends do not comply with their Advice, that then  
 they take to themselves one or two Friends more, and  
 again exhort them to end their Difference, and if they  
 or either of them refuse then to let them know that  
 it is the Advice and Counsel of Friends, that they  
 should each choose an equal number of indifferent  
 impartial & judicious Friends, to hear and speedily  
 determine the same, and that they bind themselves  
 to stand to their Award & Determination, or the Award  
 and Determination of the major part of them, that  
 shall be made and signed by the Arbitrators, or the  
 Award & Arbitration made and signed by the Umpire  
 if there be one agreed unto.

Also this Meeting doth advise that if any  
 person professing Truth among us and esteemed a Friend  
 shall refuse speedily to end the Difference, or refuse it



# Arbitrations.

11

1697 as before-adsesed complaint be made of that Person or  
Persons unto the Monthly Meeting to which he doth belong  
And if after Admonition he shall refuse so to do for his  
Case that then the Meeting do testify against such a  
person and disown him to be of our Society: untill he  
shall comply with the equal Methods & governments  
of our Society: and by such his Compliance doth De-  
clare that he is for peace and doth seek and desire it.  
And when any Person so refusing is testified against  
by the Meeting and disowned, the other Person hath his  
Liberty to seek his Remedy against him, at Law.

And if any Friends that shall be chosen to  
hear & determine any such Difference as aforesaid, af-  
ter they have accepted thereof, and the parties differ-  
ing are become bound to stand to their Determinations  
shall decline and refuse to stand and act as Arbi-  
trators that then such person or persons so refusing  
be required to give the reasons of their refusal unto  
the Monthly Meeting to which they belong, and if  
that Meeting shall not esteem those Reasons suffi-  
cient justly to excuse them then the Meeting to press  
them to stand to what they have Accepted.

And if after such Admonition they shall  
continue to refuse to stand as Arbitrators, that then  
the Meeting do testify against them or either of them  
as such as are not subject to the just Rules of our So-  
ciety neither ought to be admitted thereunto, untill he or  
they condemn and retract the same.

And it is the Advice of this Meeting, that  
persons differing about outward things, do as little  
as may be trouble publick ministering Friends  
with being Arbitrators in such Cases.

And that all persons differing be exhorted by  
the Monthly Meeting to which they belong where  
their Cases are referred, and Judgment given and  
Award made signed and given thereupon as afores:  
to stand to & perform the said Award which they  
have bound themselves to perform, and if any shall  
refuse



# Arbitrations

1697

refuse so to do, that then the Monthly Meeting to which said Person doth belong upon Notice thereof given to them shall admonish him thereunto, and if after Admonition he persist to refuse, then the Meeting to testify against him as before.

No Friend  
to sue  
another  
at Law

To conclude it is the Sense & Judgment of this Meeting, that if any Person professing Truth shall arrest, sue or implead at Law any other Person professing Truth, before he hath proceeded in the Methods herein before recommended that such Person doth therein depart from the Principles of Truth, and the known way thereof, and acts contrary thereunto: and ought to be dealt with by the Meeting he belongs to therefore: and if he shall not give Satisfaction to the Meeting for such his disorderly proceeding by condemning it and himself therein that then he be disowned by the Meeting therefore.

1705

1705 If any difference is depending or shall arise between any Persons professing Truth amongst us, it is advised and desired that effectual Care in the Wisdom of God, may be taken by Friends of the Meeting or Meetings to which such Persons belong, to put a full & speedy end thereto, as has been formerly advised particularly in the Year 1697.

1720

1720 The Report of the Friends appointed on the Minute of 1697 received with an Explanation which was several times read, and finally accepted by the Meeting

The Report and Explanation aforesaid are as followeth.

It is the sense and Judgment of this Committee, that the Minute of 1697 relating to Arbitrations is consistent with the practice of our Ancient Friends and very fit for a general Rule for the procedure of Friends on such Occasions: yet since general Rules commonly admit of Exceptions, or Explanations, & divers Friends having objected some particular Cases wherein they approached



# Arbitrations

13

1720

apprehend difficulties may arise which yet we apprehend is sufficiently provided for by the discretionary Power vested in the respective Monthly and Quarterly Meetings yet in condescension to these Friends, we declare that as no Persons ought to be disowned without tender considerations of every Circumstance attending such Cases, and due Admonition by the Monthly Meetings to the Parties concerned so we tenderly advise that the several Meetings proceed with the utmost Circumspection therein.

And that if any Person so denied by any Monthly Meeting shall apprehend he is not justly dealt with he hath his Liberty, as in all other Cases amongst us, to appeal to the Quarterly Meeting who after thorough examination of the Case and all the Circumstances & procedure attending it shall proceed to confirm or reverse the same, as they in the fear & Wisdom of God shall see cause.

And whereas sometimes it so happens, that persons under our profession have proved so base & unworthy as when they have run themselves into debt to endeavour fraudently and hastily to remove themselves or their Effects to prevent Justice, whereby those Creditors who are Friends have been deprived of an opportunity of the Common Methods of Friends specified in the Minute aforesaid, it is hereby declared that the last paragraph of the said minute, which prohibits Friends to sue or arrest one another &c. Is not intended to prevent such evil persons in these practices from being dealt with by a legal Process as the Nature of the Case may require, of which Circumstances the Monthly and Quarterly Meetings are the proper Judges: so tis not to be doubted that they will do justice to the parties concerned therein.

Whereas upon the Dissatisfaction of several Friends with some parts of the Minute of this Meeting Anno 1697 relating to Arbitrations & Differences about outward things, there were some Friends appointed to read, hear and consider the said Minute and the dissatisfaction therewith and make report, and accordingly the greater part of the Friends appointed for that purpose did

None to be disowned without tender consideration of the Circumstances

Liberty to appeal



# Arbitration.

1720 did bring in their Report, which being read did not prove so Generally to the satisfaction of Friends as could have been desired.

• Now this • Meeting being fervently desirous, that the universal peace of the Church and every sincere Member thereof may as much as possible be preserved, and all Occasions of uneasiness, as much as may be removed doth accept & receive the Report above mentioned with this farther Explanation.

That so much of the Minute of 1697, before mentioned as doth relate simply to the entering into Bonds, and so far as Arbitrations may be referred on account of Disputes & Questions in Law, relating to Executors or Trustees: in both these Cases, that there be a particular and special Regard had to the Nature and Circumstances of things: it not being either now nor at the time of making the said Minute, the intent of this Meeting, to lay any unwarrantable Burthen upon any Brother, nor upon the Church of God.

• Advised that due care be taken, that all Offences, Trespases and Differences be speedily ended and Compensated in Gods Wisdom according to Gospel Order among us, either by mutual forgiveness, Christian Counsel or just Arbitration, as the Case may require and safely admit or allow: and the Choice of Arbitrators and Umpires, be of such just impartial Men as neither Party can justly except against, but both agree to their Choice.

1721 Speedy ending of Differences by prudent & just Arbitrations again recommended.

1723

1725 Former Advice hath by this Meeting been all occasion given with regard to the Honour of God, & his Truth, of difference that the religious Reputation of our Society might be preserved from Blame and all just Occasion of Scandal: and which we now again earnestly press and desire, that all Friends avoid as much as possible Occasions of Difference one with another but



1725

Friends  
to put an  
end to  
differences

but if notwithstanding such Care, any Difference shall happen to arise that then the Friends of that Meeting in the Compass whereof any such shall happen take timely Care to put an end thereunto by advising and exhorting those between whom Difference may happen to refer the matter of their Difference to impartial and proper Arbitrators which may be a very likely Means to avoid the Scandal of going to Law one with another, and to shew forth to the World that we love one another: which is a distinguishing mark of being Christ's Disciples.

to avoid  
the scandal  
of going to  
Law

8737

1737

And we do again remind you that Friends may be every where carefull to get all Differences about outward things speedily ~~ended~~ composed, either between themselves, or by arbitrators, without trauelling Monthly or Quarterly Meetings with such Affaires

And it would be well that Friends were at all times ready to submit their differences even with persons not of our Perswasion to Arbitrations rather than contend at Law

8744

1744

See Law, page, 126.



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## No. 3. Concerning Books.

1672 <sup>1672</sup> A Committee of ten Friends appointed to see that Books be carefully corrected: and that none be printed but by Friends Order.

The Printer to give three or more of them Notice when any Book is to be printed.

That no old Book be sent to the Counties unless for.

That no second Edition be printed without Orders. That the Printers send those ordered to the Counties before any be sent abroad.

1673 <sup>1673</sup> Agreed, that the Quarterly Meetings turn the Printer his Money once a Quarter, for his further Encouragement and Assistance to carry on his Business.

1674 <sup>1674</sup> Agreed, that whatever Book is for time to come writ by any Friend in Scotland, and printed here, they shall take off four hundred of each Book towards defraying the Charge of printing them.

1679 <sup>1679</sup> Books to be delivered to the King and his Council the Parliament, and other Persons, Magistrates and Governors within this Nation, as also in foreign Ports beyond the Seas, as the Meeting for Sufferings shall from time to time direct and appoint.

Agreed, that the Meeting for Sufferings for the time being do for the future take care to the Inspecting, Ordering and regulating the press & printing of Books. And in whatsoever Matter relating to printing of Books the Country Friends find themselves aggrieved, that they write to the said Meeting who are to redress the same.



# Books.

1680.

1680. Agreed that the Matter of Books and printing  
 and method of sending them as well within this Nation as  
 foreign parts, be wholly left and referred to the Meeting  
 for Sufferings in London.

1691

1691.

two of a  
 sort of 6 each  
 & one of a sort  
 above  
 to each  
 Mon. Meet.  
 See p. 23.

This Meeting agrees, for the taking off and  
 spreading Friends Books for the Service of Truth,  
 that such a Number of Friends Books, as shall be  
 hereafter printed by their approbation (excepting Collec-  
 tions of Books) be taken off by each Quarterly Meeting  
 as will only amount to two Books of a Sort to each  
 Monthly Meeting provided the two Books do not  
 both exceed one Shilling in Price and if any one  
 Book be above six pence price, then but one of that  
 sort to each Monthly Meeting, who may send for as  
 many more as they have occasion for or desire.

151  
 Mon. Meet.

We understand there are about one hundred and  
 fifty one Monthly Meetings in England & Wales.

And that the said Books be sent by the several  
 Correspondents in London or by their Order, to  
 the Correspondents of each County who are desired  
 to send up the Money for the Books when received,  
 to the Friends that are correspondents in London,  
 and to be diligent in spreading Friends Books for  
 Truths Service.

1692.

1692.

See 1695

Agreed, that those that print for Friends  
 deliver to the Meeting for Sufferings, for the several  
 Correspondents of the Counties in England & Wales,  
 such a Number of Books as was agreed unto last  
 Meeting within one Month after Printed, which are  
 two of a sort for each Monthly Meeting not exceeding  
 six pence for Book, and one of a sort above six pence  
 for Book.

And it is advised by the Meeting, that one  
 Book at least of a sort that shall be printed except

Collections



Books to  
be kept  
in each  
Quarterly  
an Mon.  
Meeting  
See 1695

Collections, be kept in each Monthly or Quarterly Meeting, for the Service of Friends and Truth, as there shall be Occasion for the future, and this to be recommended to the Quarterly and Monthly Meetings.

1695

1695

Two of a  
sort under  
2s. 6d. and  
one of a  
sort above  
to each  
Monthly  
Meeting  
See 1697

This Meeting agrees, that it may be recommended from this Meeting to each Monthly Meeting in the Counties to take off two Books of a sort newly printed, to each Monthly Meeting, under two Shillings & six pence for one Year from this time, and one, to a Meeting that is above, and that they be sent into the Counties, quarterly, about two Weeks before each Quarter Day, by those Printers that print them: and that one Book of a sort be kept in each Quarterly Meeting in the several Counties.

1697

1697

Spring of  
Friends  
Books

Friends in the several Counties in England are desired to be diligent to spread Friends Books, which are answers to Adversaries, and to get them exposed to publick, where Adversaries Books are sold, that the Service of them may be answered: and the Printers are to be spoken to to send down the Books in due time, and not delay them till the service be partly over.

Two of a  
sort not  
exceeding  
2 Shillings  
a Book

This Meeting understanding that the Minutes of 1695 expired in 1696 with respect to printed Books of high price: its desired that all Books that are written by such that are in unity with Friends, that was then agreed to, be accepted by the Monthly Meetings <sup>to which they are sent, and that each Monthly Meeting</sup> for the future, do accept of two Books of a sort that do not exceed two Shillings p<sup>r</sup> Book, till this Meeting doth order otherwise.

1698

1698

Printers  
accounts  
to be cleared  
Yearly

This Meeting adviseth that the Booksellers Accounts be cleared Yearly of such Books they send, and Friends approve of, and that each Quarterly Meeting preceding the Yearly Meeting give directions to such Members they make choice of to attend the Yearly Meeting, to see it done: and the Printers



## Books.

1698 Printers to give timely notice thereof to each Quarterly Meeting preceeding the Yearly Meeting.

1702 Agreed to recommend it to the Quarterly & Monthly Meetings in the several Counties to appoint some judicious Friends to read over such Books that are published in vindication of Truth and the Doctrine of Friends against Adversaries in order that they may better understand of Controversies and be prepared to vindicate the Doctrine of Friends and obviate Objections.

1706 Agreed that when the morning Meeting of Ministering Friends do see cause or necessity for to dispose of Books in Truth's Service gratis or freely that they acquaint the Meeting for Sufferings therewith, both as to the Quantity and charge for their compliance before disposing of that Service.

1709 Agreed that North-Brittain be desired to send up an Account to the Meeting for Sufferings how many Monthly Meetings they have, and its purpose that they take off two Books of a sort for each Monthly Meeting.

1710 This Meeting desires the Meeting for Sufferings to take care that the several Quarterly Meetings in England and Wales do take off & pay for all such Friends Books sent pursuant to the Yearly Meetings repeated agreement.

1737 It is agreed that the Meeting for Sufferings do distribute in such Manner, and to such parts of the World as they think proper the Writings of such Friends as have been published by the consent of the Morning Meeting.



N/35

1735  
 Copies  
 of  
 Books  
 The Meeting for Sufferings have invested  
 John Davis, Sam: Arnold, Richard How and  
 Joseph Oliver with the right of such Copies of Friends  
 Books as are now, or shall hereafter, be printed for  
 the Use of this Meeting. but this Meeting desires  
 that the Meeting for Sufferings do take care, that  
 the said Friends may not have it in their power  
 to possess the said Copies but only in Trust for this  
 Meeting.







## Boundries

MD Concerning Boundries  
1762

762  
boundries  
This Meeting approves of Aquishuel river to  
be the boundries between Rhode Island Quarterly meeting  
and Sandwich Quarterly meeting agreeable to their re-  
quest

The above minute was entered and concluded on at  
a yearly meeting of Friends at Newport on Rhode Is-  
land









# Certificates.

## Wh - Concerning Certificates.

1694

Desired, that all Friends who remove from any part of England or Wales into Ireland, may have Certificates from their respective monthly Meetings to which they belong, that they may be informed of what reputation they are, as to Truth and Friends and also that no unnecessary and undue charge be brought upon Friends there.

Friends removing from the Compass of one Monthly or Quarterly Meeting to another, to have Certificates, See prior, page 215. 216. 218. 220. 221. 223. And See Removals & Settlements, in 1737, p. 261. 262. 264.

Friends that travel in the Work of the Ministry to have Certificates, See Preachers, p. 233, 234, 236.

1745  
See Preachers, page 239.

1748  
See Marriage, page 141.

1772  
At a yearly meeting held at Newport on Rhode Island the following minute was agreed to

1774  
The following are adopted as Rules of our society, that when Publick Friends have it on their minds to travel out of the verge of the Quarterly Meeting they belong to, that they acquaint the Elders of their respective meetings with their concern for their advice before they move it to the Preparative meeting in order for a Certificate from the monthly meeting, and also when they have it on their minds to travel out

of the verge of the yearly meeting, that they proceed in like manner and take a certificate from the Quarterly meeting they belong to concurring with the Monthly meeting therein.

And that any Person coming from one Monthly meeting to another in order to Propose their intention of marriage, that they bring a Certificate with them to the first Monthly meeting, from the monthly meeting <sup>where</sup> they belong, Signifying their Parents or Guardians consent, if they have any, as well as their conversation and disentanglement with other persons.









## Children

## No. 5. Concerning Children.

1688

1688

Parents  
to be good  
Examples  
to  
Children  
p 36.37  
40.42.44

not to  
indulge  
them

We do entreat and desire you all our dear Friends, Brethren, and Sisters, that are Parents and Governours of Families, that ye diligently lay to heart your Work and calling in your Generation for the Lord, and the Charge committed to you, not only in becoming good Examples to the younger sort, but also to use your Power in your own Families in the educating of your Children and Servants in Modesty, Sobriety and in the fear of God, curbing the extravagant Humours in the young Ones when it doth appear, and not to indulge it and allow of it, for you are set in your families as Judges for God, and it is you that must give an account of the power committed to you: and when you see a Libertine, and wanton Spirit appears in your Children & Servants that lusteth after the vain Customs and Fashions of the World either in dressing-Habits or outward adornings, and craves your Assistance, and allowance, without which it cannot get forward while they are under your Government: Oh then look to yourselves! And discharge your Trust for God, and for the good of their Souls, exhorting in Meekness, and commanding in Wisdom, that so you may minister and reach to the Witness & helps them over their Temptations in the Authority of Gods Powers: and when they feel themselves helped and delivered, their Souls will bless God for you and you will reap the comfort of your Labours.

1689

1689 And dear Friends, for the Lords sake exercise your Christian Care for the Education of your Children in the Fear of God, and plainness & simplicity of the Truth both in Language and Habit.

1690



1690

1690

Not to train  
them up  
in the  
World's  
way &c)

put them  
to School  
Masters  
who are

1690, 37

to provide  
School  
Masters  
& mistresses  
who are

1690, 37

This Meeting adviseth, that Friends may be carefull not to train up their Children in the World's ways, Names of Days and Months, and Language & Fashions: and that Friends may be carefull of Friends Children to provide School Masters & <sup>mistresses</sup> that are Friends where they are capable, and not to send them to the World's Schools to corrupt them by learning heathen Authors and the Names of their Gods: but to take care that they may train them up in the Language of Truth, and that Plainness which becomes the Truth, and to be good Examples to them, and not to say you to their Children, nor suffer their Substance to be bestowed on their Children to furnish them with such things that are not becoming our profession.

And dear Friends, it is our Christian and earnest Advice and Counsel to all Friends concerned, so far as they are able, or may be capable, to provide School Masters and Mistresses, who are faithful Friends to teach and instruct their Children, and not to send them to such Schools where they are taught the corrupt ways, manners, Fashions & Language of the World, and of the Heathen in their Authors, and Names of the Heathenish Gods and Goddesses, tending greatly to corrupt & alienate the minds of Children into an averseness or opposition against the Truth, and the Simplicity of it; but to take care that you train up your Children in the good nurture, Admonition and Fear of the Lord, in that Plainness and Language which becomes the Truth; and parents, Masters &c, to be good examples to them in a sober and godly Conversation & Plainness of Speech, not to use the word you, or ye, to a Child or Servant &c: nor suffer your Substance to be bestowed on your Children, to furnish them with such things as tend to pride, and to lift them up in vanity, or effect them with the vain Fashions of the World.

1691



# Children

31

1691

ps 35, 36  
to be plain  
in explain-  
ing

1691  
That Friends be exemplary to their Children in plainness of Language, Habits & Deportment; and bring them up therein, that Modesty & Sobriety may be countenanced; and the fear of the Lord take place and increase among them, see more in the same printed Epistle.

See Plainness, page 203.

1692

1692  
Being sensible how incident Youth is to be corrupted, and how liable to corrupt & hurt one another by evil Example, and Liberty, it is earnestly requested, that all Parents among Friends take all Godly & Christian Care in the Education of their Children, and be good Examples to them, and not to allow them in any thing that may gratify a vain mind in immodest Apparel, or foolish Garbs, or other extravagancies, tending to their hurt, and the Reproach of our holy Profession, and incurring God's Displeasure & Judgment which stands against the Pride of life & haughtiness, but sincerely to use their best endeavours to train them up in the nurture & admonition of the Lord in sobriety, Modesty and plainness of Apparel, Language & Conversation, as becometh our holy profession and Christian Religion.

1696

1696

ps 35, 36

Agreed, that it be recommended to Friends to be very care full in the Education of their Children and to see that it be as much as possible, by honest Friends, that while Children are getting Learning by such that are not Friends they are often hurt by having such things instilled or like Seed dropt into them that have taken Root to the hurt of Children, and should therefore be prevented.

We)



## Children.

1696 We recommend to you, that are Parents, the plainness  
 to be trained up in Truth's Way with a commendable Education  
 and holy Discipline of Truth among your Children  
 that they may be trained up in Truth's Way: and with  
 a commendable Education according to your abilities  
 that a peculiar people we may be in the life of  
 Righteousness in our Generation, diligently im-  
 proving that good understanding, and those heavenly  
 Gifts the Lord hath endued you with, and made you  
 Stewards of to the honour of him that hath called  
 you, and the good & comfort one of another.

1697 It being under consideration, how Friends  
 to be put Children might be disposed of that are trained up  
 Appren- in the way of Truth, and fit to be put forth Appren-  
 tices: It is the Advice & Counsel of Friends that spe-  
 cial Care be taken to put them Apprentices to  
 honest Friends that they may be preserved in the  
 way of Truth.

1700  
1701

8700 } See plainness, p. 203.  
8701 }

8703 Advised, that all Parents be watchfull  
 over their Children, and Carefull not to suffer  
 them to get up into pride & excess, but to keep them  
 to that decent plainness which becomes the People  
 of God that the Sin of the Children may not lie  
 upon the Parents nor they be exposed to ruin by  
 the Parents neglect.

Brought  
up to  
upfull  
employ

And that Friends of all Degrees take  
 due Care to breed up their Children in some usefull  
 and necessary employments that they may not spend  
 their precious time in Idleness, which is of evil Ex-  
 ample and tends much to their hurt.

8704 And Parents are again reminded to conti-  
 nue their godly Care, & exercise their just & due  
 Authority and Command over their Children timely  
 to



# Children

(39)

1704 <sup>timely to restrain</sup> to restrain them from the World's Corruptions & Extravagancies, both in Habit and Language, Behaviour & Conversation, that they may keep the way of the Lord, and walk uprightly therein.

1706

1706 <sup>& foolish</sup> **Advised** to keep Children out of the vain Fashions and Ways of the World, and in plainness of Language, Habit & Behaviour.

1709

1709 <sup>heads of Families & Elders to watch over the young</sup> **Advised**, that all heads of Families, and especially such who are Elders in the Church of Christ, be all diligent and carefull to watch over the young Generation that Sobriety, Plainness, & Virtue, may be encouraged & promoted, and exemplarily recommended by you to them: that the Liberty too many of our Youth take, in following the Fashions and Customs of the World, which tend to the dishonour and Reproach of the Testimony of the Blessed Truth, may be discouraged. <sup>to be dealt with</sup> And such as are found in a same, dealt with in the fear, Wisdom & Love, of God, that they may be won and brought into humility and Subjection to the Lord and his Truth. <sup>More in the same Epistle, See plainness p. 204.</sup>

1710

1710 <sup>Caution against degeneracy</sup> **The Lord** knows, we would not have any of our dear Friends Children, who are natural Branches of a good Stock, degenerate from that good Seed & tender Plant that he has sown and planted in them, nor corrupted from Truth's Simplicity or Innocency, by the Society or ill Examples of any other Children; which Friends who are Parents should take timely care to prevent.

1715

1715 <sup>Parents to watch over Children & labour with them</sup> That our Children may be preserved from the Wiles of Satan, as much as in us lies, let a Godly Care & Concern be upon the Minds of all Parents to watch over them with Supplications to the Lord that they may not be drawn away from the Innocency, Simplicity & Plainness of the way of Truth, & labour in



## Children

1715 a sence of Truths, to reach the Witness in them, that  
 they may fall in their own Spirits, a Degree of Fear  
 and Reverence towards God, and instruct them to  
 1713 follow his Counsel, and obey his Voice: as the Scribes  
 of Israel were required of God to teach his precepts  
 diligently unto their Children, Deut 6: 7. And  
 thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy Chil-  
 dren, and shalt talk of them <sup>whenever thou art in thy house, and when thou</sup> when thou walkest  
 by the Way, and when thou liest down, and when  
 thou risest up.

So be you concerned to acquaint them how  
 the Lord led you from one Degree of Faithfulness to  
 another, in a denial of the Worlds corrupt ways,  
 Language and Customs, which while we in  
 disobedience to him walked in, we could not  
 enjoy true peace, but as we bore the Cross and  
 bowed to his will we had an evidence of accep-  
 tance with him, and be careful that none  
 of you by neglect herein become Examples un-  
 to them to depart from the Scripture Language  
 wherein is true propriety of Speech.

1717 **A** touching the Education of Friends Chil-  
 dren for which this Meeting hath often found a concern  
 we think it our Duty to recommend unto you the  
 necessity that there is of a Care in preserving them in  
 plainness of Speech and habit, suitable to our holy pro-  
 fession: and also that no opportunity be omitted, nor any  
 endeavours wanting to instruct them in the Principles of  
 Truth which we profess, that thereby they being sensible  
 of the operation thereof in themselves may find, not only  
 their Spirits softened and tendered fit to receive the  
 impressions of the divine Image, but may also from  
 thence find themselves under a necessity to appear  
 clear in the several Branches of our Christian Tes-  
 timony, and as this will be most beneficial to them  
 being the Fruits of Conviction so it is the most effec-



# Children.

11

1717

way of propagating the same, throughout the Church of Christ. And there being times and Seasons wherein their Spirits are more than at others disposed to have those things impressed upon them, so we desire that all Parents and others concerned in the oversight of Youths, might wait in the fear of God, to know themselves divinely qualified for that Service; that in his Wisdom they may make use of every such Opportunity, which the Lord shall put into their hands. And we hereby warn and advise Friends in all places to flee every appearance of Evil and keep out of pride, and following the vain Fashions and Customs of the World as recommended in the Epistle

1715

1723

1723

What Books are not to be allowed

Advised & exhorted, that all Parents, Masters & Mistresses of Families & Guardians of Minors that they prevent as much as in them lies their Children, Servants, and Youths under their respective care and Tuition, from the having or reading Books or papers that have any tendency to prejudice the Profession of the Christian Religion, to create in them the least doubt or Question concerning the Truth of the Holy Scriptures or those necessary & saving Truths declared in them, lest their <sup>imprint</sup> feeble Minds should be poisoned thereby and a foundation laid for the greatest Evils.

1724

1724

Unsuspect their Conversation

The Circumstances of our Youths having been again under our consideration, we judge it necessary to observe, that the undue Liberty to many of them take, both in their Conversation one with another as well as with those not of our Profession hath been cause of Grief to know and hear, wherefore we tenderly recommend to all Parents and such as may have care of Children that they do as far as in them lies carefully inspect and narrowly enquire into the manner of their Conversation



Conversation: that where Counsel or Reproof may be wanting, it may in the Spirit of Love and in sound Judgment be given

1725

1725

And you who are Parents of Children.

To labour  
for an  
Inheritance  
in the Truth  
rather than  
in this World  
p. 45

Labour fervently in the Spirit with Secret Supplications unto the Lord, that he may give them an Inheritance in the Truth wherein they may be enabled to stand up in their Generation after you, to his praise & Glory rather than Labour to get great Inheritances for them in this World which has proved a Snare & Temptation to some to shun the Cross & embrace the Glory of this present World; but that those to whom God hath given Riches, may take the Apostles Advice, that they be not high minded but fear and trust not in uncertain Riches; but therein be Rich in good Works, willing to communicate, ready to distribute, and therein be a good Example to their Children.

1 Tim. 6. 17.

1729

1729

I thought to be the great Care and Concern of Parents as they value the welfare of their Children and posterity, and others who have youth under their Care, that they endeavour by their Example as well as Precept to keep them from bad Company for many have found by sad Experience, the Truth of that saying of the Apostle, Evil Communications doth corrupt good Manners. And see Scriptures p. 283.

Company

1731



1731

1731

Advice to  
Parents &  
Guardians  
concerning  
Education

As much as we have a large Body of Youth growing up the Offsprings of Friends these call for our special Care & concern, that they may be preserved in the way of Truth, in which our Forefathers walked, and in order thereto, we tenderly recommend to all Parents and Guardians, first, that they take heed to themselves, that their own Spirits be rightly seasoned and directed for the help and good government of their Children, and then that they have a constant watchfull Eye in love over them for their good and keep them as much as possible within their Notice and Observation for this we are sensible of, that the miscarriages of Youth have very much proceeded from their being imprudently Indulged or left to themselves, by which means they become exposed to the Danger of evil Examples on the one hand and vicious corrupt Principles on the other, with which the World too much abounds: and therefore we earnestly & tenderly advise all Parents, and Guardians, to be watchfully concerned in this respect: and that they take all proper Occasions both by Example and Instruction to help their Children. And that Mothers of Children as well as Fathers, as they have frequently the best Opportunities, would take particular Care to instruct them in the Knowledge of Religion and the holy Scriptures: because it has been found by experience that good Impressions early made on the tender Minds of Children have proved lasting Means of preserving them in a religious Life and Conversation, this practice was enjoined strongly upon the People of Israel by Moses and Joshua the Servants of the Lord, who required them to read or repeat the Law to their Children.

And the Apostle Paul takes Notice of Timothy's being well Instructed in the holy Scriptures from a Child and of the unfeigned Faith that dwelt in his Grandmother Lois & his Mother Eunice, 2 Tim: 1. 5. Who no doubt had a religious Care of his Education.

But,



1731 But when Parents or Guardians are deficient in  
 Monthly Meetings such their Care; we recommend Monthly Meetings, that  
 they stir them up thereto, either by visiting them in their  
 Families, or in such manner as in the Wisdom of God  
 they may see meet: that so the Doctrines of the Gospel,  
~~and of the Gospel~~ and a Conversation agreeable there-  
 unto may be maintained unto all Generations.

1732

See Scriptures, page, 284.

1732

1733 See Same, page, 285.

1733

1734 See Same, page, 285.

1734

1735

1735 See Plainness, page, 208.

And see Scriptures, p. 286.

1736

1736

Train them  
 up in the  
 way of the  
 Lord, not  
 to indulge  
 but restrain  
 them.  
 p. 33

And dear Friends you who have Children  
 under your Care or Tuition, we beseech you to accustom  
 them early to reading of the holy Scriptures, and to train  
 them up in the way of the Cross, as soon as they are  
 capable of receiving Impressions of good and evil, that  
 Parents be carefull how they indulge them in any  
 thing that has an evil Tendency, endeavouring to  
 restrain them from every hurtfull thing which their  
 natural Inclinations may lead them to desire after  
 This we think is the indispensable Duty of all Parents  
 and we cannot see how they can answer the omission  
 of it in the Sight of God: for such a Neglect too often  
 occasions ill habits, which afterwards are not to be re-  
 strained without great difficulty if at all.

Youth  
 instructed  
 to receive  
 admonition  
 p. 35, 36, 37  
 40, 42

We also earnestly entreat our young Friends with  
 all readiness of Mind to receive and give place  
 to the Labours of Love & wholesome Admonitions  
 bestowed upon them by their Parents & others for  
 their benefit & Instruction, and carefully to avoid  
 all Evil Company which Corrupts good Man-  
 ners and leads into Disorders and Extravagan-  
 cies: and that the Endeavours of Parents may be  
 crowned



with Success, it behoveth them to enforce their Advice by a suitable practice and an exemplary Walking in all holyness and Goodness of Conversation.

1737

1737

to be  
instructed  
in some  
modern  
language

And dear Friends, it has been the concern of this our annual Meeting from the Relation & hopes given us of Truth's spreading in foreign Countries, that Friends who were of Abilities, and have the prosperity of Truth at Heart would in the Education of their Children, take care as suitable Opportunities and Occasions may offer, to let them be Instructed in some modern Tongue, as whether high & low Dutch, Danish &c, that so when they are grown up they themselves if Traders to foreign Countries may reap the benefits thereof, and as it shall please the Lord to dispose and incline them, may be for Service to the Church.

See Families, page 106.

1738

1738

It has been matter of affection to this Meeting to understand by the Accounts received from divers Counties that notwithstanding the repeated Exhortation and tender Counsel given forth by this Meeting to Parents and others concerned for Youth and that ought to be properly engaged for their due Education, and the forming their tender Minds to the Exercise of Piety & Religion: yet, too great a Deficiency appears in that important Duty, under a pressing concern of Mind for the revival of so necessary a Care enjoined the chosen people of God: i.e. the Israelites & the concern of the Faithful in every Age, we communicate this additional Counsel, and intreat them to consider, that there ought to be proper Similitudes assigned to their Anxiety, after this World, and an hearty Engagement to seek primarily after that Blessing that makes truly Rich, and brings no Sorrow with it. The neglect of this Mighty Obligation has produced fatal Effects to the Youth in many Places the life of Religion

p 42.



# Children

8/51

Religion being lost by the Parents they have been disabled, from instructing their Children, and the most excellent part of that near Relation has been entirely lost: their Minds bent to the World, and devoted to its pursuits, has centered them in the acquisition of earthly Possessions as their principle and only good: and as jealous Righteous God has often punished such in themselves or Offspring as he did the people of Old. Haggai. 1. Ye looked for much & lo it came to little, & when ye brought it home I did blow upon it: Why? saith the Lord of Hosts: Because of mine House that is wast, and ye run every Man into his own House.

There is a great reason to hope a Blessing would attend the honest Endeavours of Parents, that the Minds of Youth thus seasoned, they might be rendered usefull in our Zion, and be brought up in Service according to the Will of God.

And dearly beloved Youth in an humble sense of the continued Visitations of the Father's Love, and Experience of their blessed Effects, we entreat you by the Mercies of God, receive it's holy Impressions, submit to it's Discipline, this will preserve you from the deplorable Effects of Satan's Transformations, inspire you with holy Resolutions, and support to maintain them in all goodly conversation, & purity of Faith and life adorning the Doctrine of the Gospel by a blameless Demeanour; true peace will thus flow as a River in your own minds: and the Fruits of the Tree of Righteousness brought forth to your inexpressible consolation in Christ, the revival of Zion's Beauty, the rebuilding her Desolations that by and through you she may yet appear beautiful to the sincere hearted; but to her Enemies Terrible as an Army with Banners.



Children. —

17

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## N. 6: Concerning Conversation.

1675

1675  
to keep to  
the Tes-  
timony  
of Truth

It is much upon us to put Friends in remembrance; to keep to the ancient Testimony Truth Legat in our hearts in the beginning against the Spirit of this World, for which many have suffered cruel Mockings, Beatings, Stonings &c. particularly as to the corrupt Fashions, Dealings & Language of the World, their overreachings, and vain jestings, that the Cross of Christ in all Things may be kept to, which preserves Friends blameless, and honours the Lord's Name and Truth in the Earth.

1676

1676

See Covetousness, page, 75

1688

1688

Advised, that Friends every Where, be put in mind to keep under the leadings and guidance of the Spirit of Truth, in their outward Habits and Fashions thereof not suffering the Spirit of the World to get over them in as much as to be like unto them in things useful & Superfluous, lest it prevail upon them by giving a little way to it, till it leads them from the simplicity & plainness that becomes the Gospel, and so from one vain Liberty to another, till they come to lose the blessed Liberty that is in Christ, into which they were in measure redeemed and fall back into the Bondage of the World's Spirit and grow up into the Liberty of the Flesh, with the lust & concupiscence thereof, and so lose both their Name and place in the Truth as too many have done.

1691

1691

to watch  
against  
the  
Spirit  
of the  
World

Advised in God's holy Fear to watch against, and keep out the Spirit and corrupt friendships of the World and that no Fellowship may be held or had with the unfruitful Works of Darkness, nor therein with the Workers thereof.

And



169

avoid  
frequent?  
Taverns  
&c

And to avoid unnecessary frequenting Taverns ale-Houses, all looseness, Excess and unprofitable & idle Discourses, mispending their precious Time & Substance to the dishonour of Truth, & scandal of our holy profession.

And see Plainness, page 203.

1712

1712

See Plainness, page 205.

1725

1725

Watch  
over our  
own Spirits

Let us watch diligently over our own Spirits to see that we are conformable to the Spirit of Truth whereby our behaviour and Conversation may be such as becomes Godliness, and may attorn the Doctrine of Christ Jesus our Lord who mercifully hath called us to be a people faithful in bearing the Cross and despising the shame, and cheerfully bearing our Testimony to the great Truths of the Christian Religion which he hath revealed, and against every appearance of Antichrist and Wickedness?

1731

1731

Caution to  
be careful  
of their  
Conversati-  
on at Times  
&c

It is the Care and Concern of this Meeting to recommend unto all Friends resorting to any of our annual Assemblies either in this City or elsewhere to be very careful at their Inns or other places where they may lodge or converse to be prudent in all Manner of behaviour both in publick & private, avoiding all Intemperance in eating and Drinking, and likewise any foolish jesting or undue Liberty whatsoever, that our Conversations seasoned with the fear of God may appear correspondent to our profession and answer the Witness of God in others: and we advise that the Quarterly Meetings in these Counties where such Meetings are held, take special Care in this Respect,

With regard to that openness and good Disposition which appears in the Minds of People to hear the Testimony of Truth, and some Convincement in divers places, we earnestly advise Friends that they

be



1733 be carefull of their conduct at all times and on all Occasions, that no stumbling Block be laid in the way of Honest Enquirers, not offence given to tender young convinced Friends, let your Light so shine before Men that they may see your Works, and glorify your Father which is in Heaven: let us walk wisely toward ~~the~~ those that are without, as well as those within: let our Moderation & Prudence, as well as Truth & Justice appear to all Men, and in all things, in Trading & Commerce, in Speech & Communication in eating & Drinking, in Habit & Furniture, and thro all in a meek lowly quiet Spirit: that as we profess to be a Spiritual minded People, we may appear to be such as being bounded by the Cross of Christ, shew forth the power of that divine Principle we make profession of by a conversation every way agreeable therunto.

1734 And seeing it is very evident that evil Communication corrupts good Manners, we think proper to recommend with much affection to our young Friends that they be very carefull to avoid all such company, as by a light and vain conversation would tend to alienate their Minds from the Love of Virtue and Sobriety for the Discourse of Fools is Vicious and their Sport is in the wantonness of Sin Ecclesiastes, 27: 13. If therefore thou be among the indiscreet observe the time, tarry not there but be continually among men of understanding, ver: 12. And See Scriptures, p. 205.

1736 Tho' the Accounts we have received from some places in this and other Countries of the prosperity of Truth and of the coming forth of some among us in a publick Testimony therunto have been very acceptable unto us yet it is with much grief and Concern that we observe in some a declension from the way of righteousness and Truth as well as from the plainness of Habit, and Simplicity of Speech.



# Conversation.

1736

from whence  
Declension  
arises

by which  
the holy  
obtain  
a good  
Report in  
all Ages.

and Behaviour, which were so conspicuous in our early Friends and many of their offspring. This Declension we apprehend arises from a Disregard to the Divine Light & Truth they have often <sup>been</sup> recommended to as the Regulator of their Words & Actions, by a careful conscientious Regard to this, the holy Men in all Ages obtain a good Report, and our Antients and many of their immediate offspring were comely in the Eyes of the Nation, for their solid Deportment, and religious Regard to their Words and Actions, as goodly Trees rest on their minds that the precious Truth and principle which they profess, and felt the blessed Effects of might not suffer Reproach from their Misconduct; the like holy Concern now would tend to regulate our Youths, and render them more comely in the Eyes of Beholders than any External Ornaments or Pickings of the Body whatsoever: this would instruct them to avoid all Pride & Affections, and endue them with Humility, Modesty and Virtue which recommend to the Favour of God, and a good esteem among Men: a religious regard to the principle of Light and Truth, God's Witness in the Mind & Heart of Man ever produces the most beneficial Effects; as well to Society in general as to every one in particular: this would introduce universal Love Peace and Concord among Mankind: this would sweeten the bitter Spirit Melancholy and aswage the fierce and violent Dispositions of Men mutually endear Relations & Friends, and bring all into the Unity and Fellowship of the holy Spirit, the Fruits whereof the Apostle declareth are Joy, Peace, Long Suffering, Brotherly-kindness & Charity: we do therefore most earnestly recommend a strict Attention to this holy & divine principle to Friends every where and in a particular manner to the Youths of the present Generation.

And



# Conversation.

51

1736

And dear Friends in order that as we have received Christ, so we may walk in him in all holiness and godliness of Conversation we earnestly exhort that ye hold fast the profession of the Faith in our Lord Jesus Christ without wavering, both in respect to his outward coming <sup>in the Flesh</sup>, his Sufferings, Death, Resurrection, <sup>Mediation</sup> Ascension, & Intercession at the right hand of the Father and to the inward manifestation of his Grace and holy Spirit in our Hearts, powerfully working in the Soul of Man, to the subduing every Evil Affection and Lust, and to the purifying of our Consciences from dead Works to serve the living the living God: and that thro the Virtue & Efficacy of this most holy Faith, ye may become strong in the Lord and in the Power of his might, which will enable you to worship God in Spirit with Acceptance, and preserve you in a lively Frame of mind, from a slothful & Luke Warm Spirit, which in all our religious Assemblies ought to be guarded against with the utmost care and circumspection: in this living Faith and pure Life of Christ, you will have Victory over the World, over your desires after the grandeur and perishing Things thereof: and over all corrupt customs and fashions, which are Contrary to the purity of the Gospel and our ancient Christian Testimony.

1737

the 1<sup>st</sup> of  
May 1737

For the sake of tender and young convinced Friends an earnest concern is on the Minds of many that no Occasion of Stumbling or Offence be laid in their Way: but that all such as have made longer profession of the way of Truth, may be careful to walk before them in all holiness and uprightness of Conversation, and in a humble waiting upon the Lord that their Example may tend to the encouragement and strengthening of those who have been more lately visited to a steady & constant perseverance in the path which the Lord hath directed their Feet into.

And



See p. 55. 56.  
and under  
Plainness  
p. 203 to 209  
and under  
Trading  
page 345 to  
page 347.

And dear Friends tis with much sorrow and grief of Heart, we have occasion to remind you of the Advices so lately delivered in our Yearly Epistles namely to keep out of the extravagant Fashions and Customs of the World, and not to launch farther into Trade & Business than you are capable of managing and carrying on with Reputation and Credit among Men, and without prejudice, Loss or Detriment to any.

We are fully persuaded that if Friends everywhere had due Respect and Regard to this one Precept of Christ viz<sup>t</sup> Seek ye first the Kingdom of God and his Righteousness: which is the indispensable Duty of all his Followers to observe, we should have little or no Occasion for the repetition of such Advices: let therefore we earnestly beseech you that precept of our blessed Lord and Master and holy Word be duly considered and put in practice: that by ordering our Conversations agreeable to our profession, we may shew forth the praise of him that hath called us: so shall we witness the promise to be fulfilled; them that honour me I will honour with the Lords.

1738

1738  
against  
vain  
Fashions  
Sports  
Plays  
&c

And for as much as we are called with a high and holy Calling, to all holiness & purity, of Conversations, let your Behaviour among Men be unblameable, and such as may adorn the Gospel of Christ: let not in vain & foolish Fashions of the World prevail over you: avoid Sports, Plays, and all such Diversions tending to alienate the Mind from God and to deprive the Soul of his comfortable presence and power: be Temperate & sober: shun all excess in Eating & Drinking: Let such of you as deal in Spirituous Liquors be careful to limit your Trade within the bounds prescribed by <sup>his Law</sup> Law: beware lest any of you suffer as an Evil doer 1 Peter 4. 15.

be Temperate  
&c

1739



1739

1739

The Advice in 1738 renewed and earnestly  
beseech your friends, and the Youth especially, to avoid  
all such Conversation as tends to draw out their minds  
into the foolish and wicked pastimes with which this  
Age abounds. particularly Balls, Gaming Places, Horse-  
Races, & Play Houses these various degrees of Debauchery and  
Wickedness, the Burthen & Grief of the Sober part of other  
Societies, as well as of our own: Practices wholly unbec-  
oming a People under the Christian Profession. &c.  
See Printed Epistle

1743

1743

See Plainness, page 210.







Ch



# N<sup>o</sup> 7 Concerning Correspondents.

1682

1682

See 1703  
1725  
1747

Agreed that the Persons to be Corresponded with here be from time to time agreed and directed by the Meeting for Sufferings in Sweden.

1693

1693

Friends  
to write  
to Correspondents

Agreed that each Quarterly Meeting take care to advise the correspondents for the Counties, and any others concerned, to write only to the Correspondents in London, about their Sufferings, and not to others, lest their suffering Cases be delayed.

1701

1701

This Meeting desires the City Correspondents do write to the several places beyond Sea at least once a Year.

1702

1702

who are  
proper  
members  
of the meet-  
ing for  
Sufferings

Agreed, after a serious consideration that none are proper Members of the Meeting for Sufferings, but publick Friends, and such as are appointed or approved by the several Quarterly Meetings of the Counties, that correspond with this Meeting in all places, and are entered as such in the correspond Book.

1703

1703

See 1725

After a consideration about the Correspondents in London it was agreed by this Meeting, that it was that it was of right for the Deputies of the Counties to diminish ~~or~~ or add to their correspondents as they see meet.

1709

1709

for foreign  
parties  
See 1730  
p 67

It is agreed, that in the Epistles to foreign Parts, Friends be acquainted of such Friends as are named here, for them to correspond with upon the Affairs of Truth and to inform them how they may direct to them if the Friends there approve.



## Correspondents.

1709 approve of them, otherwise that they advise this Meeting who they would have for their Correspondents here, and that they let Friends here know to whom and where they shall direct to them there.

1713.

1713 Recommended to the Meeting for Sufferings to enquire whether the Epistles be duly sent by the correspondents to the foreign plantations.

1717

1717 No place to have more than four. Agreed that the London Correspondents be no more than four for any one County or place for the future and that where the Number at present exceeds four as soon as any of them decline or die and the are reduced to four, the Number in those places also shall be kept to the Number not exceeding four.

1720

1720 to give attendance. The Meeting for Sufferings is desired to call upon the Members thereof to give the Service of their attendance therein: and that if notwithstanding being so called upon any Members shall neglect or refuse to give their Assistance on all necessary Occasions, the Said Meeting is desired to acquaint therewith the County for whom such Friends neglecting to serve are appointed, that they may name or appoint some other Friend, who can or will attend the Service on all necessary Occasions.

1725

1725 Quarterly Meetings to appoint Correspondents. Agreed that the Quarterly Meetings in the Country be directed, expressly to give Instructions to their Deputies who attend this Meeting, what Correspondents they shall nominate in the City, in the room of any Friends deceased or removed, or else expressly leave them to their liberty of Choice, &c.

And



# Correspondents

70

1725  
meetings  
for sufferings  
to give notice  
of the death  
of any  
member

And also that the Meeting for Sufferings within some reasonable time after the Death of any of their Members, do give Notice to the County or Counties for whom the said Friend is appointed, in order that they may give such Directions the next Yearly Meeting

1730

1730  
Persons  
not to be  
Correspondents

This Meeting having had under their Consideration, a proposition made relating to persons employed as Correspondents, some of whom have failed in the payment of their just Debts, tis deemed that no person under such Circumstance is fit to be employed in that Station till he hath given the Monthly Meeting he belongs to Satisfaction; and therefore hereby recommends it to the Meeting for Sufferings, that for the future they take special Care where any such failure has or may happen, that they duly apprise the Counties thereof for which they stand Correspondents in order that a new choice may be made to supply his place.

A Copy of this Minute to be sent down to the several Counties, for Friends there, also to act agreeable hereto with respect to correspondents in the Country likewise.

Writing  
to foreign  
parts  
1729-1713  
p 65. 66

This Meeting recommends it to the Meeting for Sufferings to take due care to see that the Correspondents for foreign Countries answer the several Epistles received from thence and also write to the several distant places in the World wherewithall this Meeting hath heretofore corresponded where any Friends are notwithstanding at any time this Meeting may not have any account from thence either by Epistle or otherwise: and that all such answers allowed be signed by the Meeting for Sufferings in behalf of this Yearly Meeting.

1734

1734  
attendance  
required  
see p 20  
1736  
1737

It being taken notice of in this Meeting that some Friends of the City whose Names stand in the Correspondent Book do very seldom attend the Meeting for Sufferings: this Meeting are of opinion, that such who do not attend the Meeting at least once in a Quarter of a Year should be discharged by this Meeting, unless some sufficient Reason should be rendered.

1735



## Correspondents.

8/35

1735  
 Minute of the like purport  
 1736

1736  
 attendance  
 See 1737

The Friends of the Meeting for sufferings having laid before this Meeting a Minute respecting some Difficulties in putting in practice the Advice of this Meeting in the Years 1734 & 1735 relating to the Attendance of the Members of that Meeting in the service thereof, and this Meeting taking the same into consideration approves what the said Meeting have done, and now agrees that instead of being obliged to attend once a Quarter all such Members to attend at least six times a Year.

1737

1737

On perusing the Minutes of the Meeting for Sufferings respecting the attendance of its Members, we find that a considerable Deficiency appears in attending the same, altho for several Years past they have been earnestly requested to do it, this Meeting being desirous they may come up in their Service request their Care and diligence for the future, and do agree that such that dont attend at least six times in the Year, pursuant to the Direction of a Minute of the last Year pursuant to the Direction of a Minute of the last Yearly Meeting, shall be struck out of the Correspond Book, unless they give sufficient Reasons to the contrary

not attending  
 six times  
 a year  
 to be struck  
 out

1743

1743

See Representatives, page 271.

1747

1747

Qualifications to be considered  
 See 1730  
 p 67.

This Meeting having considered the nature & importance of the affair transacted by the Meeting of Sufferings and the continued necessity there is that they should be managed by grave and weighty Friends such as are themselves Men of clean hands and adorning the Doctrine they profess in their lives & Conversations, it is become the earnest desire



# Correspondents

69

1747

desire of this Meeting that for the future Friends every where will be particularly carefull in their choice of such who are to act as Correspondents either in the City or the Counties, informing themselves, as much as may be of the Qualifications of those who are intended for such Services: and that such only may be nominated, who are faithfull in the several Branches of our Christian Testimony against Tithes, Bearing Arms, & Swearing: and who are also exemplary in their Conduct & Conversation amongst men, and coming up in that plainness of Speech, Behaviour and Apparel, w<sup>ch</sup> highly becomes those, in an especial manner who are concerned in managing the Affairs of the Church.

[Faint, illegible handwritten text, possibly a list or account, spanning several lines.]















# Covetousness.

75

## No. 8. Concerning Covetousness

1676 And none strive nor covet to be rich in this World. <sup>in</sup> These changable things that will pass away, but your Faith to stand in the Lord God, who changes not, that created all and gives the Increase of all.

1697 We do in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ, warn and charge all that profess the Truth among us to take heed and beware of Covetousness, over-reaching or oppressing and Defrauding of any: from whence Strife, Contention & Law Suits do often arise, and if any Difference about these things do happen among you, to stop and suppress it.

1699 Let all Friends be exhorted to abide under <sup>the</sup> Daily Cross, whereby the earthly Mind may be crucified, which hath its Delight & Ease in Vanity, Pride & Covetousness &c. that Friends being preserved out of those things wherein the Enemy hath had and hath his Kingdoms, and too plainly lays his Snares to hinder their holy progress, may every where be more and more a retired Serious Plain & self-denying people growing in the Grace & Knowledge of God and our Lord Jesus Christ, & exalting his spiritual Kingdom in their Souls.

1720 As our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ exhorted & Warned to beware & take heed of Covetousness which is Idolatry we are concerned that all professing Christianity among us may take heed of pride, Covetousness, and hastening to be rich in the World, which are pernicious & growing Evils let them be watched against, resisted & suppressed in the fear & Dread of Almighty God, and have no place or Countenance in his Camp.

Oho!

## Covetousness

1720

O H! ye grave Elders both Men & Women pray  
be carefull and watchfull against these Evils, & over  
the Youth in these Cases

1721

1721

The last Years Caution repeated.

1725

1725

See Children, page 42.



## No<sup>o</sup> Concerning Days.

1690

1690

See Children, page 36.

1691

1691

Advised, that Friends keep to their wonted example and Testimony against the superstitious observation of Days.

1697

1697

That all Friends keep to the simplicity of Truth in calling the Months & Days by Scripture Names, and not by Heathen.

1715

1715

See Plainness page 205.

1841

Received of the  
Hon. Secy of the Navy  
the sum of \$1000  
for the purchase of  
land in the District of  
Columbia  
for the use of the  
Navy  
this 1st day of  
January 1841



# Defamation.

## No 10 Concerning Defamation.

1718

1718

It is the Advice of this Meeting that any Person charged with Defamation or Scandal ought to proceed against in the manner, and by the several Steps following.

First, the person defamed or supposed to be defamed in his own person, or any other to whom the Knowledge of the Case shall come, to go to the Accused and tell him his fault or supposed fault between them alone & by the best method he is capable of, to labour to convince him of it in order to his Acknowledgment of the Truth, and Repentance if he appears to be guilty; but if the Accused shall appear either through Ignorance not to apprehend the Validity of the Proof, or thro' wilfulness not to yield to it or being convinced shall refuse to make such satisfaction as the nature of the Case requires, (that being the consequence of true Repentance) in such Case the Accuser to take with him one or two more of the Monthly Meeting the Accused belongs to if it may conveniently be done, and if the Accused thinks fit he may bring with him one or two Friends also, of the same Monthly Meeting if it may be conveniently done, and they together in the Wisdom of God to endeavour the true Knowledge of the Case, by having Witnesses if there be Occasion: and if they all shall judge him guilty and he doth not make satisfaction or if they do not all agree that he is Innocent: in either of these Cases happening, the person charging hath Liberty to bring the matter before the Church, who are the only Judges now remaining both of the nature of the Fact, and the Validity of the proof of it: and they in the Wisdom of God, which we hope will not be wanting to his Church, as they humbly wait on him for it, to deal with him for the good ends before mentioned, and as they see cause upon a mature and deliberate Consideration to justify or condemn him.

And



# Defamation

1728 And if the Church shall see meet to commit the consideration of a Case of this Nature, for better dispatch to certain Persons of their own Body, we recommend it as our tender Advice, that in Case the Accused shall object against one or more of the Friends so chosen, that the Church have a due regard to such objections and lay aside the person or persons so objected against and substitute another or others in his or their Room, provided such objection doth not extend to the major part of the Friends so chosen and in general we desire all tenderness & regard may be had to a person under such Circumstances, and that Friends in a Spirit of Love & Condescension, should be ready to make him as easy as they can provided they keep up the Authority of their Meetings.

Nameless Books and pamphlets reflecting darkly on Friends, are testified against: and it's desired that no such Books be written Printed, published or privately handed about, by any under our professions for the time to come.

See Sale-bearing & Backbiting, page 315 to p. 317



# Defamation





# 11. Concerning Discipline

1675

1675

Advised

Testimonies  
against  
Offences  
of their  
Repentance  
to be  
Recorded

that the Churches Testimonies and Judgment against disorderly & scandalous Walkers, as also the Repentance and condemnation of the parties must needs be recorded in a distinct Book in the respective monthly and Quarterly Meetings for the clearing of Truth, Friends and our holy Professions, to be produced and published by Friends for that <sup>end</sup> purpose: so far only as in Gods heavenly Wisdom they shall see needfull.

Not to  
upbraid  
any with  
past  
Offences

And it is also our Advice in the Love of God that after any Friends repentance & restoration the abiding faithfull in the Truth that condemns the Evil, none among you so remember his Transgression as to cast it at him or upbraid him with it for that is not according to the mercies of God.

1694

1694

If there be any such gross Errors, false Doctrines or mistakes, held by any professing Truth (in America) as are either against the validity of Christs Sufferings, Blood, Resurrection, Ascension, or Glory in the Heavens according as they are set forth in the Scriptures: or any ways tending to the denial of the heavenly Man Christ: such Persons ought to be diligently instructed & admonished by faithfull Friends (in those Parts) and not to be exposed by any to publick reproach: and where the Error proceeds from Ignorance and Darkness of their understanding they ought the more meekly and gently to be informed, but ~~but~~ if any shall willfully persist in Error in point of Faith after duly informed, then such to be further dealt with according to Gospel order, that the Truth, Church, or Body of Christ, may not suffer by any particular pretended Member that is so corrupt.

1698



## Discipline

1698

1698

Friends  
to be  
appointed  
to oversee  
& admonish

Advised, that in all Cases wherein the Testimony of Truth is concerned, faithfull Friends of the respective monthly Meetings be appointed to see how well those things be observed and tenderly to admonish such in brotherly Love that shall decline the same.

1701

1701

If any Weakness, Shortness, failure or unfaithfulness appear in any professing the same Truth with us we hope faithfull Friends and Brethren will continue their Christian Care for their help instruction and admonition in the Love and Power of the Lord as in his Wisdom they shall see cause, still aiming at their good, their inward peace of Conscience & Salvation in Christ Jesus.

1703

1703

To watch  
over the  
Flock

the faulty  
to be ad-  
monished

Recommended unto faithfull Faithfull Friends and Elders especially, to watch over the Flock of Christ in their respective places, that they faithfully and diligently walk up to the Testimony of the Blessed Truth to which the Lord hath gathered us in this latter Age of the World that so where any are found short Weak or faulty, they may be admonished and sought in the Spirit of Love which is that of the Gospel, that divine Charity that draws as with the Cords of a Man wherein Mercy is not only mixt with Judgment but may appear over all our Works, that so it may be seen to all that Church Love abounds before Church Censure Comes and that a gospel Spirit is the spring and motive to all our performances as well in Discipline as Worship.

1708

1708

Such  
who have  
come under  
censure  
and given  
a paper of  
condemnation  
in the  
yet

Inasmuch as some Persons who by <sup>their</sup> ill conduct have justly deserved, and come under the censure of the Meetings to which they belong have thought to get from under the weight of that Judgment by signing a paper of Condemnation and thereby supposing themselves discharged: tis therefore recommended to Friends consideration that



# Discipline 27

yet not to  
be too easily  
received.

that they be carefull not to admit such persons too  
early into Fellowship, or give them cause to think they  
are accepted before the Meeting or Meetings are satisfied  
in their Repentance, and Amendment notwithstanding  
such papers be given.

1718

1718  
See Defamation, page, 81, 82.

1734

watch  
over one  
another  
for good

1734 We earnestly exhort all Friends and Brethren  
that under a living Concern of Spirit for the Honour of  
God and welfare of his People, they diligently watch  
over one another for good, and where any weakness or  
unfaithfulness touching any Branch of our Christian  
Testimony appears in any making profession with  
us, let such be timely and tenderly advised, and in the  
Wisdom of Truth stirred up to their Duty.

1735

1735

keeping  
up the  
Discipline  
a means  
of preservati-  
on

And we do further recommend as a Means  
very conducive to the preservation of Friends & people  
of one Heart and one way for the good of themselves &  
their Children after them, that the Discipline of the  
Church in the several Meetings instituted for that  
purpose, be kept up and managed in a Spirit of  
Love & Wisdom: let all things in these Meetings  
be done with Charity: let the Love of God in an  
especial manner rule in your hearts & therein, though  
sometimes different Sentiments may arise, yet will  
every Member have the same thing in view, viz. the  
Glory of God, and the Good of this Church & people;  
and in this singleness of heart they will best pro-  
mote the great end and Services of these Meetings:  
we advise therefore upon this Occasion that nothing  
be done thro' strife and Contention, nor from any private  
view, or the influence of Numbers, but in lowliness  
of mind let each esteem another better than himself;  
and where any Debates arise, endeavour in a Spirit  
of Meekness to convince one another, and as you so  
stand mutually engaged in Love, your hearts will  
be enlarged and all undue warmth & discord will be  
gradually



## Discipline

1735

gradually removed and you will be enabled thro meekness, Humility, Long Suffering & Forbearance, one of another to keep the unity of the Spirit in the Bond of Peace always bearing in mind that excellent caution of the apostle Gal 5. 26 Let us not be desirous of vain Glory provoking one another envying one another knowing this, that the Fruit of the Spirit is Love, Joy, Peace, Long Suffering, Gentleness, Goodness Faith, Meekness, Temperance, against such there is no Law: and they that are Christs have crucified the Flesh with the affections and lusts: if we live in the Spirit let us also walk in the Spirit, ver. 22: 23: 24: 25

See Appeals, page. 1 to 4.

Arbitrations, p. 9 to 16.

Families — pp. 105, to 107

Fighting — pp. 111 to 113

Marriage — pp. 131, to 138

1741

See marriage page 138.

1743

See meetings for Discipline, 160.

1744

See Law — page 126.

Marriage — page (139.

Tale bearing — page 317.

Fighting — page 113 —

1745

See Appeals page. 3 & 4.

1747

Agreed that where a Person commits an offence within a monthly meeting wherein he resides but is not properly a Member by the Rules of Settlement, shall by such Monthly Meeting where the offence may be dealt with.

Offence



# Discipline

(89)

1747 <sup>Up the</sup> Monthly Meeting where they reside is committed be dealt with, and if it be of such a nature as merits a Denial the said Meeting shall disown him; and on his Repentance receive him again into unity: which shall not intitle him to Membership in the Monthly Meeting so having dealt with him; but to the Meeting of which he was a Member before such Dealing. And the Monthly Meeting who hath disowned or accepted such Friend shall immediately give notice of such Denial or acceptance to the Monthly Meeting to which he belongs.

See Marriage, page 140

1748

See Marriage, page 140

1748

1749

1749 <sup>Keeps out of heats & strife</sup> Advised, that Friends would be very carefull to avoid and beware of that Spirit which leads into heats and Strife, and which can never work the Righteousness of God, but treat such with Tenderness and affection in whom there may be a difference of opinion endeavouring in the Love & Meekness of Truth to convince their judgments and patiently to wait for the healing influences of the Love of God, which will produce that Brotherly regard and condensation, as may unite their Spirits to him and one unto another.

1750

1750 <sup>early & diligent who over the infirmities recommend</sup> The Want of due concern to deal with such as walk inconsistently with our holy profession, and are faithfull in respect to our Christian Testimony being but too obvious, an early and diligent care over such is earnestly recommended, and we desire that all who have at heart the Honour of God, and the prosperity of Truth, would be stirred up to discharge this necessary part of Christian Duty in their respective Stations; timely Cautions may often prevent unhappy Effects, and a Brotherly Care over such as are in danger of



1/50

of receiving hurt may be rewarded with the secret Satisfaction of being made Instrumental in their preservation.

Greatly would the Christian Discipline be established amongst us, if thus exerted in Divine Wisdom & Deal contribute to prevent the growing Evils & hurtfull Liberties of various kinds, which appear in too many places to the dishonour of God the grief of good Men & the reproach of our holy professions.

But if individuals neglect their Duty grow cool in their Love to God and loose that hunger after Divine Virtue and inward Support to live to his praise and their own comfort which is the certain effects of his Visitation wheresoever it is embraced how can a proper concern for the good of others and for the prosperity of Youth have due place in their minds or be properly exerted by those who are not enough engaged to feel after the Increase of its blessed Effects for themselves.

And this Neglect of steadily applying and waiting for heavenly Virtue and ability to discharge the Duties required of us, is the source of loss & decay to particulars with respect to a growth in Religion, so the same unhappy Effects are communicated to the Body: and where this is the Case evidently discovers themselves in a disregard to Discipline and the want of a proper Concern for the good order of the Church.

Let all therefore be excited to Labour in a Spirit of Love and fervent Charity with such as may be in danger of falling into things injurious to their peace and tending to the dishonour of our Christian professions: so that in thus exerting a tender Care, and watchfullness over one another for mutual edification, we may approve ourselves faithfull just & true in the Sight of God, & Examples of Temperance patience, purity & holiness before Men to the praise of the Most High, the comfort of his people & our own eternal Happiness.



# Discipline.

(91)

1751

1751  
Answers  
to Queries  
plain and  
explicit

Elders

The Answers to our Queries brought in being plain & explicit, have in that respect given this Meeting good Satisfaction; thereby affording an opportunity to this Meeting to impart the necessary Advices: which Care we recommend to the practice of every Quarterly Meeting.

And we intreat the Elders amongst you, to Rule with Diligence, abide in that power that gives Dominion over all corrupt Spirits, and in meekness and Condescension seek to recover that which is strayed, that when the great Shepherd shall appear, you may receive your Reward.

1760

1760 Agreed and concluded at the Yearly Meeting held in Newport on Rhode Island, that for initiating convinced persons into Membership who have not had their Birth and Education amongst Friends.

A method  
for initi-  
ating  
convinced  
persons  
into  
member-  
ship.

That they first apply to a preparative Meet-  
ing and in person request to come under the Care of Friends, if the preparative Meeting approve the same that they acquaint the Monthly Meeting thereof, and the persons so requesting to attend at that time and signify his or her desire to be taken under their Care whereupon the Monthly Meeting shall appoint some suitable Friends to enquire into the persons life & conversation, and also to take a solid opportunity of conference with the petitioners in order the better to understand whether their motive for such request be sincere & from the bottom of true Conviction and make report accordingly to the Monthly Meeting, which if satisfactory to the Meeting that a Minute be then made thereon, signifying their accepting such a person into Membership with us.

But in all <sup>such</sup> Cases Friends are desired carefully to attend to the Advice of the Apostle Stj.

Lay Hands suddenly on no Man

See Discipline. Page 23 & 24. 1777

See Discipline. Page 24. 1777



# Dissension

see page of 24 & 25 in 1760 c  
1770

1770

Agreed and concluded at a yearly mee: held at Newport on Rhode Island  
Respecting the Proposal brought from the Morning Mee: of Ministers & Elders concerning members not attending their meetings; it is our judgment, that if same be established as a rule in our society - concerning if request brought from said morning mee: it is our judgment that the establishing such select meetings, under such regulations as is prescribed in said request, may be of service in our society. as following -

Those who neglect or omit attendance of meetings are hereby warned

That where it shall appear upon due inspection made, that any member shall, or do neglect or omit the due attendance of their meetings, through sloth, indolence, love of ye world, or like warmness in religion, that each monthly mee: take care that all such be timely visited in love, and acquainted with the mind of ~~the~~ and desire of Friends in that case; and admonished to faithfulness therein.

And if notwithstanding the due Christian labour and admonition, he, she, or they shall continue in said neglect or omission, if minister his or her publick Testimony be denied, and if an Elder, he, or she, be dignified from that Station.

We also desire that you would take into consideration whether it might not prove advantageous to our Society to have at each General Mee: a select meeting both at the beginning and end of every such meeting, and a Committee appointed to have the oversight of such meetings, and make report to the select meeting, then in being, and also to the yearly mee: of ministers and Elders annually at Newport

Constitution of select meetings



## Discipline

publick Testi-  
monies of  
such &c.

And as to the matter referred from the Quarterly meeting of Rhode-Island, concerning what Transgression, or misconduct ought to be publickly testified against, either by the meeting or y<sup>e</sup> parties offending, It is our judgment that the first Paragraph in the Book of Discipline under the head of Discipline; page; 99 is a sufficient Rule in that case if attended to

members  
not to join  
people in  
marriage  
for if man  
or woman

And as to the other reference from said Quarterly meeting, whether it <sup>be</sup> not an inconsistency in frim conduct, in allowing their members to undertake to join people in marriage after the manner of people. It is our judgment that it is an inconsistency. And it is the mind of this meeting, that if any member be found in the practice thereof for the future he shall be delt with as a transgressor —

1774  
that Chil-  
ren are  
members  
At once  
meeting  
Provision  
made

1774  
As to the affair brought from Waukeget desiring this meeting advice whether one Parent either Father or mother being a member entitles their Children to membership: It is our sense & judgment, that the Children of such Parents as are married amongst friends shall be looked upon as members, and the Children of such Parents as become members by application shall be likewise looked upon as members, provided the Parents made application, whilst their Children were under their care and behaved orderly —

And that where but one of the Parents is a member, either Father or Mother, become so either by application or otherwise, their Children shall not be looked upon as members, unless their Father or Mother professing with us make application to the Monthly meeting.

Discipline

meeting on account of their children, and then the monthly meeting judge whether such children be suitable to be admitted or not - And it is advised that where it so happens that but one of the Parents are members of our Society; that they endeavour to bring up their children agreeable to Truth as far as in their power, and not neglect to ask the care of Friends in behalf of their children -

1777 The following Explanation of the <sup>minute</sup> 1774 is instituted  
It is the sense and judgment of this meeting, that all children that are born of Parents while they are both members, shall be looked upon as members and no others, unless parents who has children before they were members apply on their behalf, And the Monthly meeting think they are suitable, also where but one parent is a member, either Father or Mother such parent promising with us may make application to the Monthly meeting on behalf of their children, and then the monthly meeting judge whether such children are suitable to be admitted as members or not -

And it is advised that where it so happens that but one of y<sup>e</sup> Parents are members of our Society, that they endeavour to educate their children agreeable to truth as far as in their power, and not neglect to ask the care of Friends in behalf of them -

1760 We your Committee being appointed to collect & review the Sett of rules for Church Discipline throughout this year, & after meeting several times met & considered of y<sup>e</sup> report, that the Rules of our Friends in Old England are still in your view, with the following remarks &c



page 2. Appeals to be decided in on sixth day unless a third  
 page 155 that Paragraph concerning certificates being stamped is to be  
 left out

page 177 The following word, to be added (seven week day meetings)  
 page 177 The following method of constituting meetings per mi-  
 nisters & Elders is to be transcribed

203 A paragraph in the yearly meetings Epistle from Lon-  
 don concerning Negroes to be added

A 1758 And all of Queries to be left out untill y<sup>e</sup> year 1741.  
 And our Queries to be put in, as most proper to be in  
 use

And our present method of constituting our yearly  
 meetings to be inserted under the head of yearly meetings  
 both of business & ministers & Elders

And of minute in our Discipline, concerning signing  
 commissions to be added under y<sup>e</sup> head of Kings & of  
 verses

And enter under the head of Discipline, the method of  
 initiating concerned persons

Signed in y<sup>e</sup> presence of s<sup>o</sup> } Major Alvirah  
 Committee by order

This meeting therefore appoints y<sup>e</sup> following committee to  
 agree with some suitable person or persons, to transcribe y<sup>e</sup>  
 English Book of Discipline two volumes more which  
 be one for each Quarterly meeting & to be paid out y<sup>e</sup>  
 yearly meetings stock & to see the several Paragraphs  
 brought in by the yearly meetings (concerning the same) careful-  
 ly enter under their proper head. Viz. Joseph Jacob  
 David Earl Isaac Sawdon & W<sup>m</sup> Crockett

And this meeting recommends to each Quarterly meeting  
 that they furnish each ~~yearly~~ particular of their Month-  
 ly meetings with transcripts of y<sup>e</sup> same. for y<sup>e</sup> use of the  
 same that the same be done as soon as possible





## No. 12. Concerning Disputes.

1676

1676  
Shun  
vain  
Disputes

Advised, that Friends be tender to the tender, principal of God in all, and shun the occasion of vain Disputes and Jangling, both among themselves and others, for that many times is like, as bustling Wind that hurts & bruises the tend Buds and plants.

1699

1699  
an humble  
condescending  
Spirit  
Recom-  
mended

to prevent  
occasion  
of strife.

& crush  
all Differences  
etc.

Because our comfort as a People depends upon our care to maintain Peace and Fellowship among Brethren in all our Services: we earnestly recommend an humble & condescending frame of Spirit unto all that with Godly fear Wisdom & Meekness we may be so ordered in all our respective Services, that every High and rough Thing may be laid low, and all occasions of striving be prevented the peace of the Church of Christ preserved and augmented among us: and to that purpose it is tenderly advised that we dilligently & carefully observe the comely and blessed Gospel order, so long known and in practice among us in the Spirit of meekness and of sound mind which is the way to crush all Differences in their infancy, and suppress the rise as well as stop the progress of every thing that's unseemly and inconsistent with the Testimony of the precious Truth.

1736

1736  
Seek peace  
& not be  
apt to  
take  
offence

And it is the earnest desire of this Meeting, that a Spirit of Love and Humility may more and more diffuse itself among us, and influence the hearts of all that so every one may come to seek peace & pursue it, and that none be apt to take offence, but each in his own particular be more careful to rectifie his own failings and Imperfections than

1736

than curious in observing censuring and aggravating  
those of others: this will lead to the Exercise of mutu-  
al Forbearance & Forgiveness one to another by which  
the occasion of Contention will be avoided, and the Church  
preserved in a State of peace and Tranquility



N<sup>o</sup> Concerning Donations.

In 1772.

Concluded at a yearly-meeting held at  
Newport for Rhode Island.

1772  
collections  
Donations  
yearly  
remembered

As to Subscriptions, collections, and donations for publick uses, it is our sense & judgment, they ought to be taken and received from the members of our Society only.





No 13<sup>th</sup> Concerning Epistles

1696

1696 Ordered that all Epistles directed to the Yearly Meeting not already read by the second Days Morning Meeting, be perused and considered by persons appointed by the Yearly Meeting before they are publickly read in the said Meeting

1698

1698 Ordered, that the Answers to the several foreign Epistles when drawn be brought to the second Days Morning Meeting before sent and Copies left there.

1701

1701 See Correspondents, page 65

1702

1702 Agreed, that when Answers are drawn up to the several Epistles they be shewn unto the second Days morning Meeting, and sent as formerly and the Epistles left there.

1709 &amp; 1713

1709 & 1713 See Correspondents, page 65, 66

1715

1715 This Meeting desires the Correspondents to make speedy Answers to the Epistles delivered them and that the same when prepared be brought to the morning meeting <sup>and the meeting</sup> for sufferings in order to be signed

1719

1719 Whereas it is observed that in some Epistles from foreign parts mention is made, that they are signed by order, and in behalf of the said Meetings but no notice that they have been read and approved there, it is therefore desired that due care be taken that as often as may be such Epistles may be read and

## Epistles

1719 and approved in these meetings and expressed in the Epistles they have been so the Correspondents for foreign parts to give them notice hereof

1728  
 1728 To be sent to all parts where Friends are  
 'Tis referred to the Meeting for Sufferings to take care to send Epistles to all the American Islands and other places abroad in the British or other Dominions where any Friends are resident.

1730

1730  
 The Meeting for Sufferings to answer Epistles to write to all other places where Friends are, altho no Epistles be received.  
 This Meeting recommends it to the Meeting for Sufferings to take due Care to see that the Correspondents for foreign Countries, answer the several Epistles received from thence: and also to write to the several distant places in the World wherewithal this Meeting hath hitherto corresponded, where any <sup>Friends</sup> are notwithstanding at any time this meeting may not have any account from thence either by Epistle or otherwise, and that all such Answers allowed be signed by the Meeting for Sufferings on behalf of this Yearly Meeting.









## Families

## No. 112. Concerning visiting of Families

1708

1708

advice)  
to visit  
Families  
See 1698  
p. 86

Forasmuch as a godly care is growing among Friends in many Places that all things which are unsavory and hurtfull might be removed that so all that profess the precious Truth with us, may come up together in the good order of the Gospel, for the furthering of which and encouraging thereunto it is recommended, that weighty and sensible Friends of unblamable conversations be chosen in the Wisdom of God, to visit the Families of Friends in his love, who are desired to advise or admonish in the peaceable Spirit of Truth as occasion may be seen.

1710

1710

to visit  
young  
convinced  
Friends  
the Sick

We esteem it very necessary & requisite, that young convinced and well inclined Persons & Friends be early visited in the Love of God by faithfull Friends for their encouragement, help & furtherance in the Truth: and that the Christian Duty of visiting the Sick, be timely remembered and practiced it having often left comfort ease & sweetness upon the Spirits of many to their very end.

1729

1729

And we would hope if Friends in their monthly meetings should pursuant to the directions of this meeting in the Epistle 1708 appoint proper sensible and honest Friends to visit their respective Members it may in great measure prevent the necessity of respecting the advices which have been so frequently given.

1731

1731

See Children, page, 43.

1733



1733

1733  
to appoint  
Friends to  
visit Families  
see p 105-

We again recommend to Friends in their several Monthly Meetings to take special care to appoint proper prudent and judicious Friends to visit their Brethren in their Families pursuant to former Advice, vizt in the Epistles, N<sup>o</sup> 108 & N<sup>o</sup> 129 herewith sent: and that such Friends labour faithfully in a Spirit of Love, and in the meekness of Wisdom to convince the Judgment of their respective Members, of the Necessity of their coming up with their Brethren in practice agreeable to our Christian profession: that so the several Branches of the Testimony which Truth hath given our Ancients and us to bear, may be maintained unviolated

See Meetings for Discipline, page 157

1737

1737

And dear Friends, having received very comfortable Accounts from divers places, of the good Disposition raised in the Minds of Young Persons to walk in that plainness & Self-denial which have been often recommended by this Meeting. we earnestly desire that Parents & Guardians, and Friends every where would watch over such & encourage and cherish every thing that may contribute to their growth and progress in the ways of Truth & Holiness: and for the Strength & Encouragement of every such well disposed young person, we earnestly exhort masters and Mistresses of Families to be exemplary and to enforce their Advice by an agreeable Conversation or practice: and in no wise to discourage but encourage both their Children & Servants in that plainness of Speech & behaviour which the Truth leads to.



Families

107





## Freemason.

## Concerning Freemasons

In 1772.

Concluded at a yearly meeting held at the  
port for Rhode Island.

1772

those who  
join with  
freemason  
to be well  
with

As to the consistency of the members of our  
Society joining themselves with those called free-  
masons, we have deliberated upon, and according  
to our present judgment, think it is not consistent  
with our Religious profession, and advise that  
Quarterly and Monthly meetings disavow their  
members therefrom, and if any continue therein or  
join therewith contrary to the advice herein con-  
tained, that they be dealt with as such, who refuse  
the the advice of friends.

See Testimony p. 351





# Fighting.

411

## N<sup>o</sup> 15. Concerning Fighting

1693

1693  
against  
carrying  
Guns  
in Ships

A Complaint being made about some Ship Masters who profess the Truth and are esteemed Quakers, their carrying Guns in their Ships supposing thereby to defend and secure themselves and their Ships, contrary to their former practice and principle, and to the endangering their own and others lives thereby also giving occasion of more severe hardships and sufferings to be inflicted on such Friends as are pressed into Ships of Warr who for Conscience sake cannot fight nor destroy mens Lives: tis therefore recommended to the monthly and Quarterly Meetings whereunto such Ship Masters belong to deal with them in Gods Wisdom and tender love to stir them up, and awaken their Consciences that they may seriously consider how they injure their own Souls in so doing, and what occasion they give to make the Truth and Friends to suffer by their Declension and acting contrary thereunto, thro disobedience and unbelief placing their security in that which is altogether insecure & Dangerous: which we are really <sup>for</sup> and sincerely desire their Recovery and safety from Destruction, that their Faith & Confidence may be in the Arm and power of God.

See more in the same printed Epistle.

1709

1709

The foregoing Advice still recommended.

1730

1730

against  
bearing  
Arms or  
Fighting

It hath been a weighty Concern on this Meeting that our ancient and honourable Testimony against Friends being concerned in bearing Arms for Fighting may be maintained, it being a Doctrine & Testimony agreeable to the Nature and designe of the

Christian



# Fighting

1730 Christian Religion, and to the universal Love & Grace of God: this Testimony we desire may be strictly and carefully maintained by a godly Care & Concern in all to stand single & clear therein so shall we strengthen & Comfort one another.

1742

1742

See Questions page, 247.

1744

1744

Testimony  
against  
War.

I having been in pressing Terms represented & complacaned of to this Meeting that notwithstanding we have as a people, looked upon our selves as well as the primitive Christians to be included in that notable prophecy Isaiah 2: They shall beat their Swords into ploughshares and their Spears into pruning Hooks, & learn War no more, agreeable to the Doctrine of our blessed Lord & Saviour, Jesus Christ, and his Apostles, to which our ancient Friends abundantly bore testimony both in Doctrine & practice & suffered deeply for and confirmed and satisfied by several of our Yearly Meetings, particularly in the Years 1693, 1709 & 1730 by their express declarations & Testimonies against carrying Guns for defending our Ships, persons & Goods: and being under many strong Engagements to observe the same, from the particular Care of Providence over such as have been faithfull to this our Testimony, particularly those of our Friends in Pennsylvania.

Privatizing  
we

Nevertheless some professing to be of our Society have of late slighted and neglected this our ancient & Christian Testimony to that Degree as to be concerned in Privatizing or as owners in Ships going with Letters of Marque which is as flagrant and lamentable Departure from our peaceable Principle which hath always been to confide in the protection & providence of Almighty God, and not in weapons of War: which practice of theirs may be attended with injustice, Barbarity & Bloodshed

This



# Fighting.

1744

This Meeting therefore having taken this sorrowfull and afflicting Case, and Breach of our ancient Testimony into our serious consideration have thought it our <sup>independent</sup> Duty, to bear our testimony against such practices: and 'tis the unanimous sense of this Meeting, that all Quarterly and Monthly Meetings ought speedily to deal with every person found in the practice of such things in the Spirit of Truth and love, in order to bring them to a sense of their Error, and to reclaim them from it: which if they cannot do then to testify against them, and let them know we have no unity or Fellowship with them.

And see Questions, pages 217

1875

1875

1875

1875

1875

1875

1875

1875

1875

1875

1875

1875

1875

1875

1875



115

# Kings & Governours.

## N<sup>o</sup> 16 Concerning Kings & Governours

1689

1689

to give  
no offence  
to those  
in  
Government.

It is advised, to walk wisely and circumspectly, towards all Men in the peaceable Spirit of Christ Jesus, giving no offence nor occasions to those in outward Government, nor way to any controversies Heats or Distractions of this World about the Kingdoms of it, but pray for the good of all, and submit all to that divine Power & Wisdom which rules over the Kingdoms of Men.

1690

1690

It is advised that Friends be circumspect and not make it their Business to discourse of the outward powers, but to discourage all such things.

And dear Friends, altho' we gave plain & Christian Advice and Admonitions last Year, for Friends to beware of all airy Discourses, Disputes and Controversies about the Kingdoms of this World that all might walk wisely and circumspectly in subjection to the divine and overruling Power & Wisdom of God: yet contrarywise to our grief we have heard too much complaint and reflections occasioned by some who have not observed as true Bridle to their Tongues, but have been too busy loose and airy in Discourses of that Nature, and therefore we do exhort and admonish all such in the fear of God, as they have respect unto his holy Truth, and innocent People, and their own safety to be watchfull, carefull and circumspect, for the time to come, that none may suffer as busy Bodies nor bring Suffering or Reproach, or cause of Jealousies to be raised upon or against others that are Innocent, and singly desire the preservation Safety & Peace of all Friends in Truth and Innocency towards all Men.

1692



## Kings &amp; Governours.

1692

1692

This

thankfull  
acknowledge-  
ments of the  
Favour of  
the  
Government  
to live  
peaceably  
under it.

Meeting was well satisfied & very glad in the sense they had of the Innocency & peaceableness of the Body of our Friends in general towards the civil Government, under which we live and enjoy our present Liberties in the peaceable exercise of our tender Consciences towards Almighty God to whom we are humbly thankfull for the Same, being obliged to demean ourselves not only as a gratefull People but as a Christian Society to live peaceably & inoffensively under the present Government, as we have always done under the various Revolutions of Government ever since we were a People according to our ancient Christian Principle & practice, in which we hope we shall ever persevere to the end of our Days according as we are enjoined by our peaceable Saviour Jesus Christ, and the Christian Advice of his faithfull Servants & Ministers among us: we being a people clear in the Sight of God from all evil designs Plots & Conspiracies whatsoever: and hope in God that we shall continue a people always quiet in the Land, having nothing but Love & goodwill to all Men, for which we earnestly desire and hope that a Christian Care may not be wanting among you for the preservation of our whole Society in that innocent Life and peaceable conversation which is agreeable to our Christian principle & profession, wherein we have from the beginning found our safety & peace with God, and him to be our Defence being fully perswaded this our ancient Christian Testimony publicly owned among us, none can gain-say, nor any faithfull Friends to God & Christ can never decline it, being assured our God will in his own due time remove all offences & causeless Jealousies and reproaches tending to cloud our Innocency, and will set his own Power and peaceable Kingdom of his dear Son over all.

1695



1695

See Parliament, page 197.

1698

*This*. Meeting understanding that some in the Government have reported, that some persons who are called Quakers have used secret & indirect ways to take up their Goods without paying the Customs & Duties which the Law hath laid upon them whereby the King is defrauded of his Right.

1698  
Testimony  
against  
defrauding  
the  
Government

*This*. Meeting thereupon declares it to be the Judgment of Truth and Friends, that all such practices are Evil, and that if any Person who professeth Truth should be guilty thereof, such persons would thereby go out of Truth, and act contrary therunto.

1703

1703  
Not to  
defraud the  
Government

*Advised* to avoid all indirect & unwarrantable Methods, both in Trade and Merchandize, by which the Government may be defrauded of its due, that so no Reproach may be brought upon our holy profession by such things.

1705

1705  
to walk  
worthy  
of the  
favour  
of the  
Government

*Since* the Lords good Providence has so far blessed Friends as to give them favours with the Government, it is desired that Friends would continue with all humility to walk worthy of that Mercy and impose the same by a gentle & peaceable conversation towards all Men in their respective places of abode.

1709

1709  
not to  
diminish  
Custom,  
ve

to deal  
with the  
guilty

*Advised* not to put any abuse on the Government by endeavouring to diminish any of the Customs, Excise, or any other publick civil Dues yet if any going under our profession should happen to be so far tempted thro' Covetousness and the love of unrighteous gain as to be drawn into any such evil, we desire you will deal with such persons, to make them sensible of their corrupt



## Kings &amp; Governours.

1709 *against being concerned in prohibited Goods & Wrecks* corrupt and pernicious practices, that our holy profession may not be blemished thereby: nor any offence given nor Injury done by being concerned in prohibited Goods, or Wrecks unrighteously taken away from the just owners.

N/15

1715

As the Blessed Truth we profess teacheth us to do justly unto all men in all things, even so more especially in a faithfull subjection to the Government in all Godliness and honesty, continuing to render unto the King what is his due in Taxes & Customs payable to him according to Law.

1719

1719 *against defrauding the King exporting wool or other Goods prohibited by Law* As our testimony hath ever been and still is against the Defrauding the King of any of his Customs Duties or Excise, buying Goods reasonably suspected to be run, exporting Wool, or any other Goods prohibited by Law, or doing any other thing whatsoever to the Injury of the Kings Revenues, or of the common Good, or to the hurt of the fair Trader, so if any person or persons under our Name and profession, shall be known to be guilty of these or any such Crimes & Offences: we do earnestly advise the respective Monthly Meetings to which such Offenders belong, that they severely reprove and testify against such offenders, and their unwarrantable clandestine & unlawfull Actions and admonish them to make Restitution for the wrong done to the Government, & the holy Truth professed by us—

1721

1721

The Advice of 1719 repeated.

1723

1723

See Questions, page, 247.—

1730



# Kings & Governours. (819)

1730

1730 Advise that Friends behave with all dutifulness and gratitude, and especially to discountenance every the least appearance of indecent freedom or marks of dissatisfaction in word or writing relating to the Government.

1731

1731 It is very acceptable to us to find by the Accounts from the several parts of the Kingdoms, that according to former Exhortations of this Meeting, Friends continue generally carefull not to defraud the King of his Customs Duties or Excise: and so far to discourage such practices as to avoid dealing in Goods seasonally suspected to be run, this is a care highly commendable, and no doubt incumbent on every honest Subject, but as the Government hath signally favour'd us in our religious Liberties we are under the greater Obligations of Gratitude, as well as Duty to manifest that we are as truly conscientious to render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, as to support any other Branch of our Christian Testimony.

1733

1733 The last Years Advice again recommended

1734

1734 We are glad to hear by the Accounts received, that Friends are generally found in the practice of their Christian Duty of rendering to Caesar the things that are Caesar's: and do earnestly recommend a strict Care for the continuance of the same in every Branch of the Kings revenue

1735

1735 The Advice we have received of the general care of Friends to keep clear from defrauding the King in any Branch of his Revenue are very acceptable to



## Kings &amp; Governours

1735

to us who hold it our indispensable duty, with regard to Kings, and all that are in authority to lead for quiet and peaceable life, in all Goodness and Honesty

1736

1736

By Accounts from the several Counties, we do not understand but that Friends are clear from the practice of running Goods, or depauiding the King of his Customs or Revenues, we earnestly recommend the continuance of that necessary Duty, and desire that Friends every where may be carefull to discourage such practices which are not only unjust, but also inconsistent with that Gratitude, which we as a people ought to express towards a Government to whose Liberty & Goodness we are obliged for the privileges we enjoy.

1737

1737

Finally Brethren, we recommend you to the Direction and guidance of the unerring Spirit of Truth within, and the excellent precepts and instructions of the holy Scriptures without which if you shall diligently take heed unto, you will not fail of being perfectly instructed in the great Duties of Worship towards God the Father & Author of all our Mercies, of Fidelity & Gratitude to the Government, which has mercifull Providence has set over us of Love & peace among yourselves and of Justice & Benevolence towards all Men—

1735

1735

signing  
Commissions  
to military  
affairs—

Agreed and concluded at the yearly Meeting held in Newport on Rhode Island, that whereas there is a matter referred to this Meeting relating to Friends signing Commissions to support the military Affairs, it is the Judgment and conclusion of this Meeting that it is contrary to our principles & whosoever has or shall presume to give or Signe such Commissions Acts contrary to our principles and the ancient Testimony of Friends.



*Kings & Governours.* 125











# W<sup>th</sup> Concerning Law

1675

1675

Friends  
as Liberty  
to defend  
themselves  
at Law  
or not

As the Meeting doth not enjoin impose upon or advise any Friends in Sufferings to take course at Law for a Remedy, so neither can we impose upon them not to use the Law in any Case: but a freedom is left to the Sufferers to use such Means as consists with the unity of Friends and their own peace and Satisfaction in the Truth, and in the bearing a faithfull Testimony in Righteousness.

not to  
reflect  
upon  
one another  
therefore

That Friends do not judge nor reflect upon one another in these Cases, a Freedom being left upon urgent Occasions, to take such Course for relief and ease to the oppressed as may not be prejudicial to Truths Testimony.

to advise  
with those  
meeting

That if any Friend or Friends apprehend a necessity to endeavour for relief by the Law of the Land to stop the Destroyers &c, they first advise about their Case with their respective Monthly or Quarterly Meetings: or at least with some of the principle Friends who relating thereto.

That Friends who suffer be advised not to let out their minds into too much expectation of outward relief by Friends here in point of Law but that they patiently and principally depend upon the Lord, and his power to plead their Cause.

1676

1676

That Friends be carefull of entangling themselves in the Law, because of some small irregularities, inproceeding, but if the Law be materially transgressed and the severity of it exceeded by our persecutors: that Friends in Gods Wisdom use their Liberty, upon serious and good Advice among themselves, so as the Truth and its Testimony may be kept clear over all.



San.

1693, 1696, 1697

See Arbitrations, page, 9, 10, 11, 12

1698

See Kings and Governours, page 117

1720, 1725, 1737

See Arbitrations, page 12, 13, 14, 15,

1744

1744  
and see  
arbitra-  
tions  
p. 14

A Minute of this Meeting in 1720, advised, that persons professing with us have proved so base and unworthy, as when they have run themselves into debt to remove themselves or their effects to prevent Justice whereby these Creditors who are Friends have been deprived of an opportunity of the common Method of Friends have ~~deprived of an opportunity~~ ~~by of the common Method of Friends specified~~ in the Minute aforesaid.

6 refers  
to a Min.  
in 1697  
See  
arbitra-  
tions  
p. 14

It is hereby declared that the last paragraph of the said Minute, which prohibits Friends to sue or arrest one another &c. is not intended to prevent such evil persons in those practices from being dealt with by a legal process, as the nature of the case may require of which circumstance the Monthly and Quarterly Meetings are the proper Judges so it is not doubted but they will do justice to the parties concerned therein.

This Meeting doth request every Monthly Meeting to appoint and depute proper persons out of their several Meetings for such Friends as may have occasions to advise with in the intervals of Monthly Meetings, and if they see cause to give Liberty to recover as above.



N<sup>o</sup> 18: Concerning Love.

1703

1703

See Discipline, page, 86.

1718

1718

See Yearly Meeting, page, 368.

1730

1730

Among all the Gospel Precepts we find not any thing more strongly and frequently recommended by our Lord Jesus Christ, and his Apostles to the primitive believers than, that they should love one another: and as we are sensible that nothing will more contribute to the peace & prosperity of the Church than a due regard to this advice: so we earnestly desire that it may be the care and concern of all Friends every where to dwell therein: and in the unity of the holy Spirit to maintain Love, Concord & peace in and among all the Churches of Christ.

1731

1731: See Scriptures, page, 285

1735

1735 See Discipline, page, 87.

1736

1736 See Disputes - page, 97.

# Lettres

## Concerning Lotteries

1760

1760

Lotteries

This Meeting being under a weighty concern on account of the prevailing evil amongst divers people of being concerned in Lotteries, this meeting therefore can do no less, than earnestly recommend to the several Quarterly and monthly meetings, that they do advise such of their members who have been concerned in any way therein, that they do abstain from the practice for the future.

The above Resolution was entered & agreed to at a regular meeting of Friends held at New York on the 11th of June 1760.



## No. 19. Concerning Marriage

1675.

1675

against  
Marriage  
with near  
Kindred

It is our living sense and Judgment in the Truth of God, that not only those Marriages of near kindred expressly forbidden under the Law ought not to be practiced under the Gospel, but that in as much as any marriage of near kindred in the times of Law was in condescension, and upon such extraordinary Occasions as upholding their Tribes: and that the nearer their Marriages were the more unholy they were accounted.

particu-  
larly  
first  
Cousins

We in our Day ought not to approach our near kindred and any such respect particularly first Cousins being redeemed out of those Kindreds Tribes & Earthly Lots (for the upholding of which Marriages within the Kindred were once dispensed with) and brought to that Spiritual dispensation which gives Dominion over the affections, and leads to those Marriages which are more natural and are of better Report: and tho' some through weakness have been drawn in such Marriages (which being done must not be broken) yet let not their practice be any precedent or example to any others amongst us for the time to come.

To break  
or violate  
any  
Engagement  
not to be  
allowed.

That such Friends as have with serious advice due deliberation free and mutual consent as in the sight of God, and unity of his blessed Truths absolutely agreed espoused or contracted upon the account of marriage shall not be allowed or owned amongst us in any unfaithfulness or injustice one to another to break or violate any such contract or engagement, which is to the reproach of Truth or injury one of another, and where any such Injury, Breach, or Violation of such solemn Contract is known or complained of or inimity or Strife occasioned thereby we advise and

Counsel



# Marriage.

1675

counsel, that as few faithfull Friends both Men & Women in their respective Meetings to which the parties belong be appointed to enquire into the Cause thereof and in the Wisdom and Counsel of God to put a Stop, and speedy end thereto: and bring Gods Power & the Judgment thereof over them that have offended in this case untill they come to unfeigned Repentance.

Consent of  
Parents to  
be first  
had

And further we advise & exhort that no engagements made without honest endeavour to obtain or due regard first had to the Counsel and consent of Parents, Relations & Friends, be countenanced that so all foolish and unbridled Affections and all ensnaring and selfish errors be not so much as found among you one any hand.

To be twice  
proposed at  
least to the  
meetings  
p. 131  
and  
accomplished  
publicly

It is our Judgment that for better satisfaction to all parties, and that there may be due time for enquiring of Clearness of the persons concerned, it is convenient that Marriages be at least twice propounded to the Meetings that are to take care therein both to the Mens and Womens Meetings where both are established before they are accomplished and when things are cleared, that the Marriage be accomplished in a grave and publick Assembly of Friends and Relations.

1690

1690

outward  
Estates to  
be settled  
before  
Engaged.

Advised that Parents and Guardians of Children in the Fear of God take special care to prevent those under their charge from being engaged or entangled with any upon the account of Marriage before all things relating to their outward Estates be firmly agreed on both parts, that so no Breach may be made upon the account of outward things, to the hurt or prejudice of Young people.

And we do also in the name of the Lord advise and exhort all young & unmarried people among Friends, that they do not make any motion



1690 or procedure one with another upon the account of Marriage without first acquainting their Parents or Guardians therewith, and duly waiting upon them for their consent and agreement therein: and we do also advise, that in the first place all young Persons concerned, seriously wait upon the Lord for counsel and cleareness in this weighty Concern, before they make any motions or Procedure with any in order to marriage, that the Lord may be in their Eye, so as they may not be led by any forward, brittle or uncertain Affections in this great Concern, to their own hurt, grief of their Friends, and dishonour of Truth.

And let it be the godly concern of both Monthly and Quarterly Meetings to be carefull and mindfull of the preservation and Good of Children in this matter as here proposed and signified, and not omit giving due and faithfull warnings and Admonitions in this great and weighty concern.

1691

1691 Advised that great care be taken about Marriages for the consent of Parents: due and orderly publication thereof: and solemnizing of them in a Meeting appointed for that end and purpose, or on week Day Meetings which method is convenient & commendable: as it has been lately made appear in the Eyes of the Government and well approved.

And that Friends be reminded of this Meeting's former advice, against marriage with non-Christians: and against marrying by Protest: and with persons of the World, unequally yoking with unbelievers: and against to early and unsavory proceeding in second Marriages: after the death of Husband or Wife contrary to the due method or practice of faithfull Friends in Truth, and tending to the dishonour and Reproache thereof.

1692



## Marriage

1699

1699. Advised that all such as Profess the Truth among Friends do publish their intentions of marriage at two sundry Monthly Meetings at least or at two sundry two Weeks Meetings in such places where they are settled before they solemnize the same, that convenient time may be allowed Friends concerned for enquiry and satisfaction, concerning the consent of parents and Guardians, and their cleanness from all scandal and precontracts: that Friends may own and stand by their proceedings before the Governments and all in authority which otherwise they cannot if they proceed not in the due and orderly publication and method of Truth settled among Friends: being a matter greatly inquired into, truly warrantable, and to be stood by.

to be proposed  
to two  
Mon. Meetings  
or to two  
two weeks  
Meetings

See 1691

p. 133

1695 p. 131

1695

1695

against  
marrying  
with those  
not of our  
profession  
nor without  
consent of  
parents  
nor with  
near kin

And that all diligent care and caution be had that no Friend or Friends Children be betrayed into affection or otherwise nor joined in marriage with those who are not of our Christian profession and society nor without the privacy & consent of parents Guardians or lawfull Tutors trusted with them: nor with any near kindred, contrary to the Law of God and whole Some Advice already given them particularly by our yearly Meetings Epistle 1695, and otherwise by the faithful Servants of Christ.

1707

1707

We being sensible of the hurt that may happen by some Persons under the profession of Truth in drawing out the Affections of one another without the Knowledge and consent of parents or Guardians, do for preventing such mischief deliver it as our sense & judgment that in case any persons reputed as Quakers shall endeavour to entangle the Affection of any young Women professing



# Marriage.

135

1707  
if any  
and cannot  
be entangled  
the Affection  
of a young  
Woman  
without  
consent of  
Parents  
not to be  
allowed

proposing Truth, or shall make suit unto her, in order to Marriage, without the privacy & consent of her Parents or Guardians first had and obtained whether such Parents or Guardians be Friends or not: that such Persons ought not to be allowed or permitted to proceed in any Meeting of Friends, in order to the accomplishing such intended Marriage untill they shall have removed the offence and given satisfaction both to such Parents or Guardians and to the Meeting of Friends to which they do belong by an open and due acknowledgement of the Offence and condemnation of themselves therefor, and shall have obtained the consent of such Parents or Guardians.

Parents  
not to  
break off  
on worldly  
Accounts

And it is further advised that after Parents and Guardians have suffered their Children to Engage one another in Affections, they do not break off upon any worldly Account; but will wait upon and seek the Lord for their Children in proposals of Marriage before they give any encouragements thereunto.

1708

1708 Advised to be carefully & zealously concerned for our ancient Christian Testimony against mixt marriages, that none of your Children may be corrupted and alienated from the Truth thereby.

1709

1709

second  
Cousins

With respect to a proposal of Marriage between second Cousins; this Meeting declares it is not safe for Friends to encourage any such Marriages in any of our Meetings.

1710

1710

We advise that a due care be upon all Parents and Guardians of Children and youth to watch over them and tenderly to exhort them to seek the Lord in that weighty affair of Marriage, and to wait upon him in the Light for Counsel & Direction of his holy Spirit in that great concern that his Blessing may be upon them!

In



# Marriage

1710  
not to  
make  
the world  
the ground  
of choice  
In order, to which let none make the earth & the  
World the ground of their choice, for that will not procure  
the Blessing, but the contrary: and will grieve the Lord,  
may spoil Families, and bring an exercise on the Church  
of Christ

1715  
See Plainness, page 205

1718  
against  
excessive  
sumptuous  
entertainments  
Testimony against running into  
excessive sumptuous & costly entertainments at Mar-  
riage Dinners a great part of which would be better  
employed in relieving the necessities of the poor.

1719  
In order to put a stop to an undue Liberty in  
contracting Marriages with such as are not of our  
Society, it is advised, that all Parents and Guardians  
of Children do take special care, as much as in  
them lies to prevent their Children from running  
into such Marriages: and that Friends of each  
particular Meeting as also of the Monthly Meet-  
ing to which such persons belong, do in the Wisdom  
and power of Truth, use their endeavours to put a  
stop to the said evil by admonishing such as may  
attempt to marry as aforesaid to desist before they accom-  
plish the same.

1720  
if any do  
so marry  
they are to  
be dealt  
with  
But if they refuse to take counsel or private-  
ly go on to marry as aforesaid, that then such  
persons be dealt with according to the good order  
of Truth, and Judgment fixed upon all such a state such  
an undue Liberty.

1722  
Advice to  
Parents  
Parents who have Children to dispose of in  
marriage a Tenderly. Advised not to make it their  
first or chief Care, to obtain for them large portions or  
Settlements of marriage, but rather be careful that  
their Children be joined in marriage with  
persons



1722 <sup>against</sup> <sup>mist</sup> <sup>marriages</sup> persons of Religious Inclinations, suitable Dispositions, Temper, Sobriety of Manners: and diligence in Business which are things essentially necessary to a comfortable Life in a married estate and carefully to guard against all mist Marriages, and unequal joining of their Children therein

1723 <sup>Children</sup> <sup>to advise</sup> <sup>with parents</sup> <sup>or Guardians</sup> Parents have a natural right to approve of and consent to the Marriage of their Children so this Meeting doth earnestly desire that Friends Children would consult and advise with their Parents and Guardians in that great and weighty point so essential to their happiness and comfort before they let out their minds or do entangle their Affections: the too frequent Examples that have happened to the contrary here of have caused Lamentation in honest Parents, and great Affliction to themselves.

1724 <sup>to prevent</sup> <sup>ill design</sup> <sup>persons</sup> <sup>from entang</sup> <sup>the Affections</sup> <sup>of youth</sup> Advised that care and enquiry be seasonably made to prevent ill designing persons in their endeavours to entangle the Affections of our Youth in relation to Marriage: the unhappy disobedience of some therein having frequently brought deep Affliction on their tender parents and misery on themselves: and on this occasion we again tenderly desire that parents or Guardians do not make earthly Riches a chief View or cause of Consent in Marriage

1727 The Advice in the Year 1695 repeated

1730 <sup>the good</sup> <sup>Order of</sup> <sup>Friends</sup> <sup>relating</sup> <sup>to marriage</sup> <sup>to be main</sup> <sup>tained</sup> We also recommend the good Order of Friends relating to marriage that it be carefully preserved and duly maintained in the first and earliest proceedings leading thereunto, as well as the orderly solemnization thereof: and if any Persons contrary to the repeated advice and established order of Friends should under any



# Marriage.

1730

any pretence whatsoever presume to take one another in any Meeting of Worship without the consent of the monthly Meeting to which they belong: such proceedings being of a clandestine nature tending to make void the just Care of Friends in that Case, which is of good esteem among the people: we advise that the Monthly Meeting doth not fail to testify against the practice, as well as against the persons concerned therein.

1734

1734

And we do exhort Friends every where that in the great concern of marriage, wherein much of the comfort and happiness of life depends, they be mindful to proceed in the fear of the Lord, and have an Eye to him for Counsel and instruction in their Choice: the neglect of which has been the ruin of many Families and tended much to the reproach and dishonour of our holy profession.

1738

1738

See the printed Epistle of 1738.

1741

1741 This Meeting having deliberately considered the great exercise brought upon our Society by divers in professions with us who contrary to our principles and that wholesome Discipline established amongst us Friends do marry by the priests with those not in communion with us, and some who both profess with us, join in marriage in the same manner, it's therefore earnestly requested of all Friends, that they use their utmost endeavours to prevent all such Marriages whensoever the party's intentions may come to their Knowledge, and that all monthly Meetings where such Marriages may happen immediately deal with the Offenders for their outgoings and endeavour in the Wisdom of Truth to bring them to a true sense of their disorderly practice: and if the Labour of Friends should have so

those who marry by the priest to be dealt with

good



1741 good an effect; that they in sincerity give a Testimony under their hands condemning their said Practice to the satisfaction of the monthly Meeting in such case Friends are desired to use tenderness towards them; but if the Christian Care of Friends do not prevail to bring them to a true sense of their Error, then the monthly Meeting is hereby directed to give forth a Testimony against such for the clearing of Truth and Friends.

And it is the sense of this Meeting that where any marry contrary to the Rules of our Society as aforesaid their collections shall not be received by any Meeting: nor they be relieved in the manner of poor Friends: nor be admitted to sit in meetings of Discipline untill they are restored into unity with the Monthly Meetings to which they formerly belonged: yet it is not hereby intended to hinder the charity of Friends in their private Capacities to extend it where and to whom they shall see meet.

1744 This Meeting having deliberately considered the great exercise brought upon our Society by divers in professions with us who contrary to our known principles, and the wholesome Discipline established amongst us, are joined in marriage by the priest with persons either of our own or of other persuasions, do earnestly advise, that all Friends use their utmost endeavours to prevent such Marriages, whensoever the party's inclinations may come to their knowledge.

And it is the Sense and Judgment of this Meeting that where any do marry by the priest, or in any other manner contrary to the established Rules of the Society they shall be dealt with in a spirit of Christian Love and tenderness, agreeable to our known Discipline: and that after the Commission of such Offence, and during such dealing they shall not be received, nor shall they

those who  
to marry  
in any  
manner  
contrary  
to our  
Rules to  
be dealt  
with



## Marriage.

1744 the manner of poor Friends, nor be admitted to sit in Meetings of Discipline untill they are restored into unity with the Monthly Meeting to which they belong.

To deal  
in due  
time with  
such and  
all other  
disorderly  
Walkers

And we earnestly advise all Friends, that you <sup>diligently</sup> watch over one another for good and that you deal in due time with such offenders and all others that walk disorderly, endeavouring to reclaim them and restore them by brotherly Admonitions & Counsel.

But where after patient waiting you find that your continued Labour of Love hath not its desired Effect, that you neglect not to testify against and disown such persons thereby preventing the Reproaches and Dishonour which might be brought upon our holy professions thro' their misconduct, and that the end and designe of Friends in settling a wholesome Discipline among us may be answered: which is substituted in lieu of the Minute made in 1741 respecting marriages by priests.

1745

1745

See meetings for Discipline page 162

1747

1747

against  
marriages

with first  
or second  
Cousins

p. 130. 132.

See 1709 in  
p. 135

This Meeting on receiving a minute relating to marriage of persons near of kin, having taken into consideration the yearly Meeting Minute of 1675 made against such marriages, & particularly of first Cousins, do declare it to be our Sense & Judgment, that no monthly Meeting or other Meeting whatsoever should pass first Cousins in order for Marriage: and this Meeting earnestly desires all Friends whenever they know or hear of any first or second Cousins designing or intending to marry that they immediately advise them against it.

1749



# Marriage

141

1749

1749  
near  
pin  
no: 131,  
139: 134  
133

Upon a proposition received relating to the marriage of persons near of kin: this Meeting appointed as a Committee to consider of the same who brought in the following Report, to which after being twice read the Meeting agreed viz:

We your Committee, appointed to consider the Paper relating to Marriage met accordingly, & having considered the same, and examined the Scriptures referred to are unanimously of opinion that the Yearly Meeting Minutes 1675 & 1717 are to be strictly adhered to.

Attest Signed the 19<sup>th</sup> 3<sup>rd</sup> Mo 1749 by 13 Friends.

1770

See Discipline Page: 93

1772

included  
the year  
meeting  
at rhodes  
and

1772

It is our sense and judgment that our Discipline forbids the Marriage of Brothers & Children sisters children half Brothers children half sisters children and a first cousin's child and all persons whomsoever nearer than a second cousin and second cousins are advised to desist therefrom and if any notwithstanding should proceed in marriage together nearer than second cousins being previously cautioned and advised against it that the monthly meeting where such may belong give forth a publick Testimony against them and not to receive such into unity again untill such meeting be well assured that such persons have found a place of sincere repentance and are received in the Truth.



1772

# Marriage.

In  
1773  
At a yearly  
meeting  
held for  
Rhode Island  
against  
marrying  
of near  
kind

It is our present sense & judgment upon  
The Query brought from Rhode Island  
Quarter: whether it be consistent with  
Truth for any Friends to marry with  
a deceased wife's sister or deceased husband's  
brother? that Friends be careful to give timely  
advice and admonition against such a procedure  
and if any should be reluctant thereto and pro-  
ceed in Marriage that such be without delay  
denied membership and testified against as  
having committed an heinous transgression and  
that such be not admitted to membership again  
in the Society untill Friends shall be well assured  
that they are received in the Truth

In  
1774  
At a yearly  
meeting  
held for  
Rhode Island  
Relating  
to marrying  
of near  
kind

As to the matter from Dartmouth Monthly  
meeting respecting marry with near of kin; we  
apprehend the rule of the Society very clear and  
and good in that respect and that it ought  
to be strictly adhered to — Nor Dartmouth  
nor any other Monthly meeting suffer any to  
marry nearer of kin than is tolerated by the  
Discipline

In  
1778  
The conduct  
ing of mar-  
riages

It is our judgment that the Business performed  
in laying the intentions and receiving answers in  
cases of marriage in the Monthly meetings is of the  
same value of the meetings other business  
And that they ought to be selected in the same  
manner with this liberty that if any particular  
circumstance attend that performance at any time  
orderly persons may be admitted to attend that part  
of the business provided they have the consent of  
the meeting at that time



278

We have likewise considered the proposal on the 7<sup>th</sup>  
Query respecting what time shall be supposed to be too  
early for proposals of marriage

It is our judgment that it is advisable for  
Friends not to make or admit of proposals of  
Marriage in less than twelve months after the  
decease of former husband or wife





# Meeting Houses.

145

## No 20 Concerning Meeting Houses.

1691 *Advised*, that all and every <sup>your</sup> meeting Houses and mansion Houses where Meetings are or may be, be entered upon Record as the Law directs, each particularly we having seen both the service and safety thereof and the Hurt and Danger that may come by the omissions.

1703 *Advised*, that Friends in the several Quarterly and Monthly Meetings take special care that the Titles of Friends Meeting Houses and burial Grounds be made secure according to Law: this Meeting understanding there is a Deficiency in this respect in some places.

1737 *It* having been represented to us that in divers parts of the Nation losses have been sustained to our Society by not timely looking into and securing the Titles of Meetinghouses, Burial Grounds and charitable Bequests we have thought fit to recommend it to the Care of Quarterly and Monthly Meetings to make timely inspection in what hands and trusts the same are secured and if they find occasion by the death of any Friend or Friends to add some others to the Trust: so that Friends may not be deprived of the benefit of such Meetinghouses & Burial Grounds: and that each Quarterly Meeting keeps exact Records of all such Trusts & Conveyances.





# Meetings for Discipline. <sup>117</sup>

## No. 21. Concerning Meetings for Discipline

1675

1675  
of the  
establishment  
of mens  
& Womens  
Meetings

It is our Judgment and Testimony in the Word of God's Wisdom, that the rise and practice setting up & Establishment of Mens & Womens Meetings in the Church of Christ in this our Generation is according to the mind and counsel of God, and done in the ordering and leading of his eternal Spirit: and that is the Duty of all Friends & Brethren in the power of God in all Parts, to be diligent therein, and to encourage & further each other in that blessed Work & particularly that Friends and Brethren in their respective Counties encourage their faithful and grave Women in the Settlement of the said Meetings.

1676

1676  
The au-  
thority &  
who have  
Rights  
thereunto

The Power of God is the Authority of the Men's & Womens Meetings, and of all the other Meetings. All the faithfull Men & Women in every Country, City and Nation, whose Faith stands in the power of God the Gospel of Christ, and have received this Gospel and are in the possession of this Gospel, the power of God, they have all right to the power of the Meeting. for they be Heirs of the power, and the Authority of the Mens & Womens Meetings.

1691

1691  
Womens  
meetings  
to be  
encouraged  
& settled

Advised to encourage the faithfull Womens Meetings and the settling them where they are wanting and may with conveniency be settled knowing their Service, & what need there is also of their gaily Care in the Church of Christ in divers weighty respects proper to them.

1693

1693

To avoid contention and strife in all Meetings it is the Advice and Sense of this Meeting,

That



# Meetings for Discipline

1693

1<sup>st</sup> That all Friends have a care of God's Glory, and be tender thereof as hath often been advised.

2<sup>d</sup>

To keep the Authority of your Meetings in the power of God, and unity of his blessed Spirit, whereby they were erected and settled, and continue your godly care and Services therein for those good Ends for which they were first instituted.

3<sup>d</sup>

To keep out all Contentions, personal reflections and Smitings out of your Meetings, and keep down & out of all Heats & passions, and doubtfull Disputations.

4<sup>th</sup>

Suffer no turbulent contentious quarrelsome Spirit or person to be concerned among you in ordering your Affairs, that they may be all managed in the peaceable tender Spirit and Wisdom of Christ Jesus.

5<sup>th</sup>

Suffer no Divisions or Schisms or making parties among yourselves one against another, for that will greatly tend to weaken your Meetings & lose their power and to cause them and you to be slighted.

6<sup>th</sup>

Both our Mens and Womens Meetings and our Monthly & Quarterly Meetings and yearly Meetings and Meetings for Sufferings were set up in the Wisdom Counsel and tender Love of God and in the same peaceable Wisdom to be kept, and encouraged for all those good ends for which they were intended & appointed,

See Records, page, 255

1696

1696

Let all your Affairs be managed in your Meetings in the peaceable Wisdom and Spirit of our Lord Jesus Christ: not striving but bearing one with and for another that the power of Christ may rest upon you & rule in all your Assemblies.

1697



# Meetings for Discipline (149)

1697

1697

Advised, that Monthly & Quarterly Meetings keep up our Christian Order, and Religious Discipline in the Church, that all Disorder & Looseness may be prevented.

1700

1700

Keep all your Meetings as well those for good Order Charity & Christian Discipline as those set apart entirely for the Worship of God, in his Love and in the Name Power & peaceable Spirit of his dear Son Jesus Christ which is the alone true Authority of all our Meetings: for without him we can do nothing: and in his Blessed power stand fast in righteous Judgments over all unruly and disorderly Spirits, that would break in upon the good Order and Discipline settled among us as well as over all those that seek to lay waste the Testimony of Truth, and cause the Offence of the Cross to cease.

1703

1703

Our Monthly & Quarterly Meetings being set up and established by the power and in the Wisdom of God, which is the Authority of these Meetings: all Friends are tenderly desired and advised carefully to keep to and in that Authority and therein manage all the Business & affairs of the said Meetings in discharge of their Duty to God and his Church and not to expect or depend upon this Meeting for particular directions from time to time how they shall proceed in the management of the concerns of these Meetings relating to Truths Testimony and Service, but wait for and depend upon the power & Wisdom of God, for Counsel and Direction in such Matters & Cases as may come before them: which will be to the great ease of this Meeting, and dispatch of the proper concerns thereof, and let the mans part, and natural Wisdom and attainments be subject to the power & Spirit of God which will truly edify the body in Love righteousness and peace.

And



## Meetings for Discipline.

1703

Such as  
decline  
to be  
dealt with

And if any decline from or let fall any Branch of their Testimony, that such may in the Wisdom and authority of Truth be dealt with, and therein mercy & judgment exercised in their proper places.

1704

1704

We tenderly recommend & desire that those Friends that are concerned in the management of the Affairs of the Church in the Monthly & Quarterly Meeting be careful to act in the wisdom of God, that they may be exemplary therein to those that are young: and that those that are worthy to be esteemed members of those Meetings be diligent in attending the same, and that they will encourage such young Men & Women as they are sensible are qualified and made capable thro waiting upon God, to serve Truth in your respective Meetings, that they may come up & stand in the life of righteousness, to be serviceable in the Church, helpfull to ancient Friends, and fitted to supply their places as such shall be removed.

1705

1705

'Tis advised and desired that in all Monthly & Quarterly Meetings, Friends take care to manage the Affairs of Truth in a calm meek & gentle Spirit without heats Discord and Contention: for if any seem to be contentious we have no such Custom in the Churches of God, 1<sup>st</sup> Cor. 11. 16

And the Apostles advice also was, that nothing should be done through Strife or vain Glory, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than themselves: and do all things without murmuring & Disputes, Philip. 2. 3 & 4. Which apostolical Counsel and good order we desire may be kept to & carefully observed.

1706

1706

Advised to keep all meetings, both those for divine Worship and those for good order & Discipline in the Church in the Name & power of our

Lord



# Meetings for Discipline 151

1706 Lord Jesus Christ, which divine Power we all ought to wait to feel to prepare, <sup>and</sup> Sanctify our minds & Spirits, that we may be duly Qualified for our share and part of our Service therein, and in the same heavenly Power and Dominion labour to keep out Strife and Contention, and stand over all forward & contentious Spirits, not in your own but in the Meek Spirit of the Lamb of God.

See Questions, page 247

1707

1707 Our Womens Meetings being set up and approved in the Love of God, and by his Wisdom & power, and of manifest Service, and helpfull in the Church; it is the earnest desire and advice of this Meeting they may be upheld and encouraged where they are settled by monthly and Quarterly Meetings and that in such Counties & places where they are not, it be the care of the Quarterly Meetings to endeavour they may be set up and encouraged in proper & convenient places, where they may be most serviceable and helpfull

1709

1709 This Meeting desires that the Accounts of the Dispersal of Truth &c that are brought in writing from the several Quarterly Meetings to this Meeting, be signed as or by order of the Quarterly Meetings.

1713

1713 See Preachers, page 232

1715

1715 Agreed that no monthly Meeting shall be allowed to divide it self into two separate Monthly Meetings either by reason of the decrease of Love or any other difference among them in that Meeting without the consent or concurrence of the Quarterly Meeting.

Elders & Overseers And let none exercise Rule or Government in the Church as Elders or Overseers, but such who are



# Meetings for Discipline

1715 are unblameable in Conversation and Example free from Covetousness, overreaching oppression & extortion &c persons of good report even among those who are without following those things so earnestly recommended by the holy Apostles Paul & Peter, Philip. 2, 3 - Let nothing be done thro' strife & vain Glory, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves. 5 Pet. 5. 2, 3. Freed the Flock of God which is among you taking the oversight thereof not by constraint but willingly, not for filthy Lucre but of a ready mind neither as being Lords over God's Heritage but being Examples to the Flock.

See Meetings for Worship, page, 172

1717

1717 Recommended that Friends but more especially such as are concerned in Meetings of Business, do labour to know their own Spirits subjected by the Spirit of Truth that thereby being baptized into one Body, they may be truly one in the Foundation of their Love & unity and that therein they may all labour to find a nearness to each other in Spirit, this being the true Way to a through reconciliation whosoever there is or may have been any Difference of apprehension, thereby Friends will be preserved in that sweetness of Spirit, that is and will be preserved in that ~~sweetness of Spirit~~ that is and will be the Bond of true peace throughout all the Churches of Christ.

1718

1718 Advised that nothing be done thro' strife and contention or vain Glory, murmuring or disputing, but in the Spirit of meekness Love and Humility, carry your selves towards one another: and the younger Brethren endeavour to know their places as living members of one Body, and preserve a due regard to their Elders in Christ Jesus.

1719



# Meetings for Discipline <sup>153</sup>

1719

<sup>Wrath &c  
to be kept  
down</sup> 1719 Advised in a particular manner when assembled for the Affairs of Church, that the Wrath of Man, which works not the Righteousness God may be kept down together with all exaltation of Spirit: and that, on the contrary, the meekness and Wisdom of the Lord may govern all Friends, and they in that carry on & perform the Affairs of the Church whereby the many and great Evils which attend wrath & exaltation will be suppressed & prevented.

<sup>Epistles  
& Acco<sup>ts</sup>  
to be read  
& approved  
before  
signed</sup> And it is desired that the Epistles & Acco<sup>ts</sup> of the Affairs of Truth sent to this Meeting from Yearly Quarterly, and Monthly Meetings may if possible be read and approved in the respective Meetings from whence they are sent before they be signed on behalf of the Meetings.

And see Yearly Meeting, page 362  
1722

1722 Advised to as cementing in a very close & brotherly Fellowship one with another in the divine spirits, and therein watch against all occasions of Discord or breach of unity in any Quarterly, Monthly, or particular Meeting, to the end Peace may continue, a quiet Habitation, the Glory and presence of God rest and remain on them, and the Spirit and Doctrine of the Gospel may be lived in & maintained.

And we also recommend, that such Friends as are concerned in the Affairs of the Church in the Quarterly Monthly or particular Meetings, be careful to act therein in the Wisdom of God whereby they will be exemplary to the Young, who may be esteemed Members thereof and attend the same: and as such young persons are found to be qualified with a real sense of Truth upon their Spirits & subjection thereunto, and thereby made capable to come up to a Service in their respective Meetings, Friends are desired to encourage and bring them forward therein, whereby they may be helpfull to the



# Meetings for Discipline

1722 the Ancients and brought up in a Life of Righteousness to walk and act to the praise of God's Holy Name and standing in their Lot will supply the place of the Elders in such Meetings thro' the <sup>same</sup> Spirit when they are gone.

1725

1721 Advised that Friends in Meetings of Business, watch over their own Spirits, that no indecent <sup>warmth</sup> get in whereby the understanding may be hurried and hindered, from a regular Judgment on the Affairs before the Meeting.

1726

1726 The former Advice in 1722 to avoid all occasions of Discord repeated.

We earnestly recommend to you whatever your places & stations in the Church may be that in the most weighty & serious manner you often call to remembrance, in all humility of mind what it was that brought us to be a People, and what is & will be that which will preserve us such, that the Foundation on which a true Christian is built, is the Spirit of Christ: let this therefore direct you in all things both respecting your private Conversation and whatsoever you do for God in his Church: this is the only true means to preserve you holy and blameless in the one as well as serviceable and usefull in the other. in this every one will have a single regard to the Service that comes before him in Monthly and Quarterly Meetings without partiality or respect of persons.

Hear the Causes between your Brethren & judge righteously between every Man and his Brother & the Stranger that is with him, ye shall not respect persons in judgment, but you shall hear the small as well as the Great. you shall not be afraid of the Face of Man for the Judgment is God's, Deut: 1. 16, 17.

And in the management of such Affairs they will find their own Spirits rightly Seasoned & prepared for every



# Meetings for Discipline 155

1726 every work and service to which they may be called and all disorderly proceedings arising from the heat of our own spirits will thereby be shut out and thus the Church will be preserved on her ancient solid and permanent Foundation to the glory of God and her own quiet and Comfort.

1727

1727 Ordered to acquaint the Quarterly Meetings that 'tis the mind of this Meeting that all Minutes and Epistles from this Meeting be ordered & kept by them in a fair Book, that all Friends of their Counties or Meetings may have recourse to them as occasions shall require.

This Meeting understanding it to have been the ancient and constant sense of Friends in the exercise of the Discipline that is established among us, that any persons denied by a Monthly Meeting is adjudged as disowned by Friends, and to stand and remain in that state till by his Repentance or the reversal of such Censure by a superior Meeting he is reconciled to Friends, or reinstated in Membership among them with which this Meeting hath unity, and therefore ratifies & confirms the same.

See morning Meeting of Ministers, p. 181.

1730

1730 And forasmuch as divers Failures in respect to insolvency have happened by persons of other Stations in the Church, this Meeting declares it as their Judgment that no such persons shall appear in publick as Ministers, or sit or act in any affair of our two Weeks Monthly or Quarterly Meetings <sup>till they have given such meetings</sup> they belong to satisfaction.

And that Friends in their respective Meetings take due care to deal with all such persons in a regular way agreeable to the Discipline of the Church already established among Friends by publicly manifesting their disunity with such Person or persons agreeable to the nature & circumstances of the Case.



# Meetings for Discipline

1730

It is recommended to all Quarterly & Monthly Meetings to watch carefully over their Members that so where any root of Bitterness shall appear that would bring forth envy strife emulation and Hatred, and thereby our holy unity in the Spirit be broken, they do use timely and earnest endeavours to prevent and remove the same whereby we may be preserved as people to the glory of God and in that perfect Love and unity which will demonstrate us to be the Disciples of Christ

1731

## 1731 Advised

that Friends everywhere in an especial manner take care to keep up the good order and Discipline of Monthly & Quarterly Meetings in that Spirit of Love & divine Wisdom in which they were at first constituted, that therein every thing may be managed to the praise of God, and the preservation of his Church and People within the bounds and limits of his blessed Truth; this we are sensible has been a means under divine Direction to keep many hurtful things out of the Church and therefore we are sincerely concerned that nothing may weaken the Hands of Friends in this good Work, but that it may be carried on for the support of our Christian Testimony in all its Branches.

1732

1732

Advised that young Friends who are sober and well inclined be encouraged to attend the service of monthly and Quarterly Meetings: and that all Friends in such Meetings wait to feel the power of Truth, that their minds being seasoned with the Virtue thereof the wholesome Discipline of the Church may be maintained & continued from one Generation to another, for the help of such as are weak.

And



# Meetings for Discipline 157

1732

dealing  
with  
offenders

And for the dealing with all Persons offending, we recommend, that Friends in their said Meetings be careful to labour in the Spirit of Love and meekness regularly and impartially for the help and reclaiming of all such: and if after such labour of Love, there appears no ground to hope for Repentance and the Case be of a scandalous reproachfull nature, that they proceed to testify against such practices & those who are concerned therein.

None to  
be disowned  
without  
dealing

That no monthly Meeting disown or testify against any of their Members without first dealing with <sup>such</sup> Offenders, where such Offenders can be conveniently met with or spoke to.

Papers to the Yearly Meeting to be signed see Yearly Meeting, page, 362.

1733

1733

Further  
Justice  
Mainness

Monthly  
meetings  
to appoint  
Friends  
to visit  
Families

This Meeting being under so weighty concern & exercise to observe that the many wholesome Advices recommended from year to year, are in too many places either neglected or not enough practiced, particularly those against Tithes Church-Rates so called, and priests maintenance: also keeping up to Justice in dealing Mainness of Habit and Speech, and several other Branches of our Christian Testimony, we therefore again recommend to Friends in their several monthly Meetings to take special care to appoint proper prudent and judicious Friends to visit their Brethren in their Families pursuant to former Advice, viz: in the Epistle 1708 & 1709.

See the Paragraphs 1708 under the Head Families p. 105.

See 1729 under the heads Families p. 105 & Trads p. 345. herewith sent you.

And that such Friends labour faithfully in a Spirit of Love and in the meekness of Wisdom to convince the Judgments of their respective Members of the necessity of their coming up with their Brethren in practice agreeable to our Christian principle that so the



# Meetings for Discipline

1733

the several Branches of the Testimony which Truth hath given our Ancients and us to bear may be maintained unviolated, and we do herewith also send the Minutes of this Meeting of 1675, 1703 & 1706.

See 1675 under the head *Sittes*, p 324.

1703 under the same — p. 325.

1706 under the same — p. 326.

So far as they are relative thereto: and desire you may record them in your Quarterly & Monthly Meeting Books that you may have recourse thereto on all Occasions: and we also advise that the same be read frequently in our Meetings of Business, that Friends may be fully informed of them.

Diligently  
to attend  
meetings  
for  
Discipline

And dear Friends as the promotion of piety and Charity is the end & intent of our Meetings for the Discipline of the Church, as weighty concern remains upon us, that Friends be careful & diligently to attend those Meetings: and when there, to act in the Wisdom given them of God with a real and living sense of Truth upon their Spirits, that so the Affairs of the Church may be carried on in Brotherly Love and in that sweet calm and Christian Disposition of mind which tends to the mutual comfort and edification one of another, and of the Church in general.

1734

1734

younger  
Friends  
to be  
encouraged

Whereas the number of Friends attending the service of monthly and Quarterly Meetings for the Discipline of the Church is but small in some places we desire that Elders would give all due encouragement to such younger Friends as they observe to be religious and sober in their Conversation to attend the Service of those Meetings, that



# Meetings for Discipline. 159

so being invited to the management of the Affairs of the Church in the company of their Elders, they may be the better qualified to succeed them therein and to supply their places & service when removed

1735 <sup>1735</sup> Propositions to the Yearly Meeting to be signed. See yearly meeting, page, 364  
See also Discipline, page, 87

1736 <sup>1736</sup> And dearly beloved Friends & Brethren, we desire you to encourage such Youth as are regular and sober in their Conversations, to frequent our Monthly and Quarterly Meetings that they may see the Care which is taken for the maintenance of our poor, and the preservation of our Christian Discipline, and thereby become more usefull in their respective Meetings, and to the Church in general and we tenderly intreat that you would both by word and example excite them to a dilligent attendance of our Meetings for Worship, not only on the first Days but also on the other Days of the Weeks.

See Appeals: p. 3.

1737 <sup>1737</sup> And dear Friends, that the affairs of our Society may continue to be managed in the meek and peaceable Wisdom of Truth, let the Elders of each monthly Meeting have an Eye upon the younger and consider their Conversations, Qualifications and growth in the Truth, and invite such as are sober and hopefull, to the Meetings for Business and the Affairs of the Church, that they may learn and improve in the Knowledge of the Discipline of the Church, and become instrumental to the Service of God, His Truth and People.

1738 <sup>1738</sup> And as much as in you lies, take care that the Business of your monthly Meetings be managed by persons who are well grounded in the principles of Truth, & beware of committing the management thereof to such as know not their



# Meetings for Discipline

1738 their own Spirits seasoned by the Works of Truth in themselves: but where you observe any young persons of a grave and solid deportment & inclinable to be helpfull in the Church discourage them not but endeavour to bring them forward in the Service of Truth according to their respective abilities for so weighty as Works.

1740 See Records, pages 257

1741 See Doer page 225

1743 Agree that when a Quarterly Meeting have come to a judgment respecting any difference relative to any monthly Meeting belonging to them and notified the same in writing to such Monthly Meeting, the said monthly Meeting out to submit to the Judgment of the Quarterly Meeting: and if such monthly Meeting shall not be satisfied therewith, then the monthly Meeting may appeal to the Yearly Meeting against the Judgment & Determinations of their Quarterly Meeting.

in case they do not be And if a Monthly Meeting shall refuse to take the Advice, and submit to the Judgment of the Quarterly Meeting: and notwithstanding will not appeal against the Determination of the said Meeting to the Yearly Meeting: in such case it is our opinion the Quarterly Meeting shall be at liberty either to dissolve such monthly Meeting or bring the Affair before the next or succeeding Yearly Meeting.

And in Case a Quarterly Meeting shall dissolve a Monthly Meeting or any part thereof in the name of the said Meeting, shall be at liberty to appeal to the next or succeeding Yearly Meeting against such Dissolution but if the dissolved monthly Meeting or a part thereof in its behalf shall not appeal to the Yearly Meeting, it is then our opinion that the Quarterly Meeting shall join the Members of the said late monthly Meeting to such

other



# Meetings for Discipline. 161

other Monthly Meetings as they may think most convenient and untill such time shall take care that no inconvenience doth thereby ensue to the Members of such dissolved Meeting respecting any Branch of our Discipline.

<sup>one</sup> monthly Meeting aggrieved may appeal. And if any of the monthly Meetings to w<sup>ch</sup> the Quarterly Meeting shall join ~~in~~ the whole or as part of the late monthly Meeting. do think themselves aggrieved, they shall be at liberty to appeal against the Quarterly Meeting to the Yearly Meeting and untill such appeal is heard and determined, the Friends added by the Quarterly Meeting to them shall be deemed their Members.

<sup>To deal in due time with disorderly Walkers</sup> And dear Friends, in the Love of Christ we earnestly beseech and exhort you to watch diligently over the Flocks of God, and to deal in due time and in a Spirit of christian Love, and tenderness, with all such as walk disorderly among you in order to reclaim and restore them by Brotherly Admonition & Counsel: and where after Patience waiting you find that your christian Labour of Love hath not its desired effect, you neglect not to testify against & disown such persons: and thereby prevent the reproach & dishonour which may be brought upon our holy profession thro' their means and that the end and designe of Friends in settling wholesome Discipline among us may be answered: the want of this has, as we apprehend brought great Difficulties on some Meetings for we think it both unseasonable & dishonourable when persons apply to monthly Meetings on account of Marriage, or for relief in case of necessity, to object to them then such Offences, as the Meeting through neglect of their own Duty, did long before suffer to pass unreprieved.

See preachers, page, 238.



# Meetings for Discipline.

1/1/11  
 A proposition for the encouragement of  
 Women's Meetings for Discipline, which this Meet-  
 ing taking into serious consideration think it our  
 Duty to recommend to the several Counties the follow-  
 ing Minutes of former Yearly Meeting relating  
 thereto, desiring Friends in each Monthly Meet-  
 ing carefully to see the same put in practice.  
 viz: 1675, 1691, & 1707 (which see at length in  
 pages 147 & 151)

See Last page 126.

See Marriage, 139, 140.

See Tale bearing, 317.

17/15  
 And dear Friends, we find it our concern to  
 repeat the exhortation we gave last year, that Friends  
 in all places would encourage the service of the Meet-  
 ings of faithful Women, and that the Quarterly Meet-  
 ings would help and assist such Women Friends in  
 setting up monthly meetings wherein they may wait  
 for Divine Wisdom to give proper Advice to those of  
 their own Sex.

And that proceedings in relation to marriage  
 be laid before such Meetings of Women & the clearest  
 and conversation of the persons concerned enquired  
 into by them, which method, we apprehend will ren-  
 der your grave & solid Women, helpmeets to the Bro-  
 therhood in the Discipline of the Church and con-  
 duce to the edification and comfort of the Body.

And dear Friends we desire that your  
 several Monthly Meetings where any School Masters  
 or Mistresses of our profession may reside, would not  
 be wanting to admonish them, as much as in them  
 lies, to bring up the Children of Friends committed  
 to their Care in plainness of Speech Behaviour  
 and

Marriages  
 to be laid  
 before them



# Meetings for Discipline 163

School  
masters  
and  
mistresses  
and Apparel, agreeable to our profession: and that  
such of them as have Boarders in their Families  
would frequently call them together and accustom  
them to a solemn reading of the holy Scriptures: &  
to press and excite them to the observation of the Chris-  
tian precepts therein contained, and that they them-  
selves walk before their Scholars as Examples of  
that plainness & simplicity which they recommend

See Appeals, page, 3

1747 See Discipline, p. 88, 89.

See Marriage, page. 140—

1748 see the Same, page. 140—

1751 see Discipline, page. 91.























N<sup>o</sup> 22. Concerning Meetings for Worship  
1675

1675 That as it hath been our care & practice from the beginning that our open Testimony for the Lord should be born and as publick Standard for Truth and Righteousness upheld in the power and Spirit of God by our open and known Meetings against the Spirit of Persecution that in all Ages hath sought to lay wast Gods Heritage: and that only thro Faithfulness constancy & patience Victory hath been and is obtained, so tis our Advice and Judgment, that all Friends gathered in the name of Jesus keep up these publick Testimonies in their respective places, and not decline forsake or remove their publick Assemblies because of times of sufferings as worldly fearfull & politick professors have done because of informers and the like Persecutors for such practices are not consistant with the Nobility of Truth, & therefore not to be owned in the Church of Christ.

1678

1678 And by how much the more it is a Day of Tryal and an hour of Temptation, forsake ye not the Assembling of y<sup>ours</sup> selves together but by so much the more be zealous and diligent in keeping all your Meetings both publick Meetings and your Mens and Womens Meetings in the Lords everlasting Power by which they were set up: and as you are found diligent & steadfast in the Work of the Lord the God of Peace will suddenly tread down Satan under your feet and plentifully reward into all your Bosoms y<sup>ours</sup> patience & perseverance with the durable Blessings Peace and Joy of that Kingdom which was before the World began, and that never shall have end.



## Meetings for Worship.

1689

1689 Let every one be watchfull against an earthly Spirit getting up in any for that will choke the good Seed and bring forth as slighting or neglecting your Testimony in your first Days and week Days Meetings & bring a decay of your Strength and Zeal for God and his Truth, and bring a weakness upon you, by reason whereof such will not be able to stand in an hour of Temptation.

1691

1691 It is tenderly advised, for the Lord's sake & his blessed Name & Truth's sake, that Friends be diligent in keeping their week Day Meetings as duly as on first Days, in his Worship & Service.

1696

1696 Agreed, that Friends be reminded that live distant from meetings, to keep Meetings in their Families to wait upon God, that their Children and Families may come to be seasoned in their Spirits by the Truth and the Lord's power, and that they may have his blessing upon their Families.

1697

1697 Advised duly to keep up week-day Meetings.

1706

See Meetings for discipline, page 150. 151.

1715

1715 Advised, that all Friends be careful to attend meetings for Worship and Business, at the times and hours appointed as near as they possibly may, and not to detain meetings out of season.

1716

1716 Advised to have a Godly care of judging or contradicting one another in publick Meetings or shewing any marks or sines of division therein among Ministers or others, that being of as very pernicious consequence to bring blame or contempts upon the Ministry, a great hurt to our youth and others.

1718



# Meetings for Worship: — 173

1718 <sup>1718</sup> Advised that all Friends be exemplary in seasonable and constant keeping to Week Day Meetings as well as first Days, and such as have Children & Families in bringing them as much as may be with them, that they may be good Examples to the Flock therein and not by their indifferency & negligence be a stumbling Block in the way of others.

1723 <sup>1723</sup> Advised, that Friends keep their Children to constant seasonable and orderly frequenting as well of Week Days as of first Days Meetings, instructing them to have their minds stayed in the Divine gift, to wait upon the Lord therein, to receive a portion with them of his Spiritual Favours that they from the tendering Virtue of the holy Spirit may be engaged in Heart and mind to walk worthy of so great Grace: and in an holy Zeal to honour God, submit to bear the Cross, endure the shame and become publick witnesses for him amongst the Sons of Men.

See Preachers, page 233

1724 <sup>1724</sup> Advised, that Friends, tho' Meetings are some times held in Silence, would not neglect their attendance at those Meetings, for the hungry Soul will labour for Bread and the thirsty for the Water of Life, and the Diligent hand will make Rich in that Treasure that is of an enduring Substance.

1725 <sup>1725</sup> In your religious Meetings for the Worship of God. Both on the first and other Days of the Week be diligent in waiting on him in his Spirit whereby you may renew your strength and Witness him your sufficient help, for were many of us have cause thankfully to remember his early Visitations in the assemblies of his people where he broke in upon our Hearts with



# Meetings for Worship

1725 with his power and Love, and did in the need-  
full time administer Help comfort & counsel where-  
by we have in the renewings thereof been upheld  
in a faithfull Testimony, and in the discharge  
our Duty to him.

1729 We again recommend the Advice given in the  
year 1723

1732 Advised that all Friends who are Masters &  
Heads of Families, be very carefull in attending  
and bringing their Children & Servants to mee-  
tings both on first Days and other Days of the Week.

1733 And as the first Day of the Week is set apart  
for the publick worship of Almighty God tis our  
earnest advice that Friends exhort & encourage  
their Children & Families to be diligent in the  
attending Meetings for Worship and to behave  
themselves there with seriousness & gravity as be-  
comes the professors of Christianity and to be re-  
gardfull of the good counsel & admonitions of  
those whose mouths the Lord may be pleased to open  
in works of the Ministry: and that parents would  
be exemplary to their Children in closely attending  
Meetings, not only on the first Days, but as much  
as in them lies on other Days of the Week also in  
which respects we cannot but with grief observe  
too many appear remiss.

1734



# Meetings for Worship

175

1734

1734

Caution  
against  
Formality

And dear Friends we desire that you would excite and stir up your Children to as diligent attending the first Days and week day Meetings and be exemplary your selves therein not in a meer formal & customary attendance, but in as serious and diligent waiting upon the Lord for as Formality in Worship occasioned the Lord to complain of his People in days of old, that they drew near to him with their mouths, & with their Lips did honour him, but had removed their hearts far from him. Isa. 29:13. so we have reason to fear that the same formality has been one cause of that great Declension from the purity & Spirituality of Gospel Worship, which is too apparent among many of the professors of Christianity.

And inasmuch as it hath pleased the Lord to concern some amongst us, as Instruments in his hands, to travel to and fro for the preaching and spreading of the Gospel, we advise that where Meetings for Worship are settled when any such are concerned to visit you, you would give notice thereof to your sober and well inclined Neighbours, that they may have an opportunity to hear the Testimony of Truth declared; a means which the Lord hath been often pleased to make use of for the gathering many out of the World unto himself through the power of the Word of Life faithfully preached.

1735

1735

As it hath pleased the Lord in his great Mercy and Goodness to favour the faithfull among his People not only in such publick Assemblies as these but also in their small retired Meetings in the Country every where with the lifting up of the Light of his Countenance upon them by which they are greatly encouraged to meet often together to think upon his Name and as he shall move any thereunto to speak one unto another to their mutual Edification & Comfort we take this opportunity to

renew

176

# Meetings for Worship

1735 renew our former Advice, that Friends in their several Counties & places be diligent in attending religious Meetings for the Worship of God not only on first Days but on other Days of the Week and as near as may be at the time appointed, there being by Accounts brought into this Meeting from some place a great neglect in the respect which we have reason to believe is owing to a being overcharged with the Cares of this Life the deceitfulness of riches & the love of other things which chokes the good Seed so that love to Religion & the Worship of God decays & grows cold.

1736

1736

See Meetings for Discipline, page, 159.

1738

1738

See preachers page 237.

1739

1739

The Advice in 1738 again recommended.  
See the printed Epistle.



*Meetings for Worship* 177











# Morning Meet<sup>g</sup> of Ministers <sup>181</sup>

## N<sup>o</sup> 23. Concerning Morning Meeting of Ministers.

1675

1675

See Sufferings, page: 305.

1697

1697

See Yearly Meeting page 359.

1706

1706

See Books, page, 24.

1707

1707

See Yearly Meeting, page, 360.

1723

1723

no Meet<sup>g</sup> of Ministers to disown any.

It is the unanimous agreement of this Meeting that it does not belong to the Morning Meeting or any other Meeting of Ministers to disown any Minister or other Person, but that the sole right of so doing belongs to the Monthly Quarterly, half Yearly or Yearly Meetings.

And that no persons Name from & after the eighth Day of the seventh Month next to be entered in the Morning Meeting Book of ministering Friends as a Minister till he or she produces a certificate from the Monthly or Quarterly Meeting to which he or she shall belong.

1727

1727

A proposition from the Friends of Wiltshire relating to the extending a care in Friends, to young Ministers &c being read: this Meeting desires all monthly Meetings to appoint serious discreet & judicious Friends, who are not Ministers, <sup>and to encourage & help young ministers</sup> and advise others as they in the Wisdom of God see occasion: and where there are Meetings of ministering Friends, <sup>such Friends</sup> so chosen be admitted as members of such



# Morning Meetings of Ministers

such Meetings of Ministers, and act therein for the good purposes aforesaid.

1732

1732

See Books, page 24

1735

1735 It is our unanimous sense and opinion, that the Morning Meeting of London or any other Meeting of Ministers, have as right as they see meet in the Wisdom of Truth, to advise exhort & rebuke any of their members or any Ministers who may travel in the Work of the Ministry, as occasion may require without being accountable for the same to any Monthly or Quarterly Meeting.

But if any Member of the said Meetings or any other Minister, should at any time be overtaken with a fault, and the same be under the cognizance of the morning Meeting or other Meeting of Ministers, and the monthly Meeting to which such person belongs shall also deal with him or her for the same: that then on notice from such monthly Meeting, that they have taken the Case under their Care & serious consideration, all proceedings of the Morning or other Meeting of Ministers against such Minister or Elder shall be finally stop'd.

No power  
to disown  
any

And we are of opinion, that the morning Meeting or other Meeting of Ministers have no power to disown any Minister or other person in any capacity whatsoever: the sole right of so doing belonging to monthly, quarterly, half-yearly or yearly Meetings.

And it is our sense and opinion, that such discreet & judicious Friends who are deputed Elders by the respective Monthly Meetings of London are to be allowed Members of the morning Meeting tenderly to encourage & help young Ministers and advise others as they shall see meet in



# Morning Meeting of Ministers 183

1735 in the Wisdom of God, for the good purposes specified in the Minute of the Yearly Meeting 1727.  
Second Days Morning Meeting preceding the Yearly Meeting.

See Yearly Meeting, page. 364.

<sup>1770</sup>  
See Discipline. page. 92

1755-

1755 At the Yearly meeting held at Smithfield for Rhode Island the following minute was agreed to.

The select Yearly meeting proposing to this meeting, that the said Select meeting may begin for the future on fourth day at the 10<sup>th</sup> hour in the <sup>time of</sup> <sup>holding</sup> <sup>of select</sup> <sup>yearly</sup> <sup>meeting</sup> the yearly meeting is to be held - accordingly it is approved of and directed to be held at that time.

*[Faint, illegible handwriting at the top of the page, possibly a title or header.]*



# Mourning.

185

## No. 24. Concerning Mourning

1717

1717 According to the primitive Innocency & simplicity of Friends, it is the Advice of this Meeting that no Friends imitate the World in any distinction of habit or otherwise as marks or Tokens of mourning for the dead.

1718

1718 Advice against Men and Womens imitating the World in making a shew of Mourning for the Dead in their Apparal.

1724

1724 A Caution against imitating the vain Custom of wearing or giving Mourning & all extravagant Expencies about the Interment of the Deceased.

1745

1745 And whereas a custom hath of late prevailed <sup>with some</sup> among us of wearing Mourning at the Funerals of their Relations, contrary to the ancient practice, & repeated Advice of Friends is desired that Friends every where would discourage such Custom: and such publick Friends whose Company may be desired at Funerals, are requested to signify to the persons concerned the uneasiness and difficulty they are put under by reason of such appearances which by their presence they may be supposed to countenance.











## No. 25. Concerning Importing Negroes.

1727

1727 It is the Sense of this Meeting that the Importation of Negroes from their native Country & Relations by Friends, is not a commendable nor allowable Practice: and that Practice is censured by this Meeting.

1760

1760 At the Yearly Meeting held in Newport on Rhode Island it was agreed and concluded that the following Paragraph from the yearly Meeting Epistle from London A D 1758 should be here inserted.

We fervently warn all in Profession with us, that they be carefull to avoid being any way concerned in reaping the unrighteous Profits arising from that iniquitous practice of dealing in Negroes & other Slaves whereby in the original purchase one Man selleth another as he doth the Beast that perishes without any better pretention to a property in him than that of superiour force, in direct violation of the Gospel Rule which teacheth every one to do as they would be done by and to do good unto all; being the reverse of the covetous Disposition which furnishes Encouragement to those poor ignorant people to perpetuate their savage Wars, in order to supply the Demands of this most unnatural Traffick, whereby great Number of Mankind free by Nature are subjected to inextricable Bondage: and which hath often been observed to fill their Possessors with Haughtiness & Tyranny, Luxury & Barbarity, corrupting the Minds and debasing the morals of their Children to the unspeakable prejudice of Religion & Virtue, & the exclusion of that holy Spirit of universal Love, meekness and Charity which is the unchangeable Nature & the Glory of true Christianity, we therefore can do no less than with the greatest earnestness impress it upon Friends every where, that they endeavour to keep their hands clear of this unrighteous Gain of Oppression.

## Negroes -

1769

1769  
 Negroes to  
 be encouraged  
 in religion  
 & virtue  
 &c

It is recommended that Friends who have Slaves in  
 possession to treat them with tenderness, impress Gods  
 fear on their minds, promote their attending places of  
 religious worship and give those that are young at least  
 so much learning that they may ~~may~~ be capable of  
 reading

W<sup>m</sup> B The above minute was entered and agreed up-  
 on at a yearly meeting of Friends held at Andover  
 Mass for New England in the year 1769









Oaths

193

No 26 Concerning Oaths.

1693

1693  
Resolved, that our Christian Testimo-  
ny be faithfully maintained against the Burthen  
and imposition of Oaths.

*[Faint, illegible handwriting]*

*[Faint, illegible handwriting]*



N<sup>o</sup> 27. Concerning Orphans.

1706

R

1706

Recommended that Friends who leave Children young especially those who have Estates for them do in their Wills appoint faithfull Friends to be Guardians to them, till they come to the age of Twenty one Years: and that Monthly Meetings take care such Guardian do discharge their Trust with Justice & uprightness, as they will Answer it in the great Day: and that Orphans be admonished to be Subject to the Wills of their deceased Parents as the said Meetings shall see cause.

18



N<sup>o</sup> 28. Concerning Applying to  
Parliament.

1695

1695

Recommended to the several Quarterly Meetings to take care that timely applications be made in their respective Counties, by sober discreet Friends, to Members of Parliament before their coming up to sit giving them right information, and intredling them in their places they would be pleased to use their Endeavours and Interest for the Case of our Suffering Friends, when presented to them in Parliament.  
This method having been found of Service in some places tis desired it may be observed.





## No. 29. Concerning Persecution

1675

1675

not to  
decline  
publick  
assemblies  
for fear of  
persecu-  
tions

It is our Advice and Judgment, that all Friends gathered in the Name of Jesus, keep up those publick Testimonies of Meeting together in their respective places, and not decline for sake to remove their publick Assemblies because of sufferings, as worldly fearfull & politick professors have done because of Informers, and the like Persecutors: for such like practices are not consistant with the Nobility of the Truth and therefore not to be owned in the Church of Christ see Meetings for Worship, page 171 —

1678

1678

See Meetings for Worship, page 171. —

1703

1703

See Sufferings page 309. —

1707

1707

to live in  
a gratefull  
sense of  
the present  
Liberty

Advised that all walk with much circumspection, Fear & Humility before the Lord under the Sense of our present outward Liberty and the temporal Mercies that have for some Years attended the same, that our Love and Service for the Lord and his holy Truth and Church may have the preference of our Worldly Business in our Thoughts lest we should incur the Lords Displeasure, for an ungratefull neglect of our Duty & thankfullness to him, for it has been some times the Lords Method to deprive his people of the favours they abuse, though he is as God slow to anger, and of long suffering towards his children.











## No 30. Concerning Plainness in Habit & Speech. &c.

1675

1675 See Conversation, page 53

1688

1688 See Conversation, page 53

1691

1691 *For Language, Habit & Behaviour* Advised, that Friends take care to keep to Truth and Plainness in Language, Habit and Deportment & Behaviour that the simplicity of Truth in these things may not wear out nor be lost in our days nor in our posterities: to avoid pride & immodesty in Apparel and extravagant Wigs and all other vain & superfluous Fashions of the World.

1697

1697 It is the Advice of this Meeting that Friends dealing every where keep to plainness both in Speech & Habit and Dealing and not to launch too far into the things of this World by overcharging themselves with Trading and Debts beyond their abilities to discharge, but keep out of the Spirit of this World in all things, that none may be ensnared and defiled thereby.

1700 &amp; 1701

1700 *Education of Children* 1701 Advised that a godly Care be taken for the due education of Friends Children in the nurture & admonitions of the Lord, and in plain & modest Apparel, and in Truths Language, and that all parents be good Examples to them accordingly.

1703

1703 *Apparel & Furniture* This Meeting being under a deep sense that pride the vain Customs & Fashions of the World prevail over some of our profession particularly in excess of Apparel and Furniture, doth earnestly recommend that all who make profession of the Truth take care



1703 care to be exemplary in what they wear and what they use, so as to avoid the vain Customs of the World and all extravagancy in colour & Fashion, and keep themselves in respect thereof spotless & blameless adorning their professions in all modesty & Sobriety

1708 *Advised* that Parents be exemplary to their Children in keeping out of the Vain Fashions Customs and pride of the World by adorning themselves modestly and in Plainness, according to the Simplicity of Truths received by us in the beginning.

1709 Let all be Examples to their Children in Wisdom, Moderation, Plainness in Language & Habit: and not examples only, but also to restrain them from any thing that might be to their hurt either inwardly or outwardly, neither providing for them costly and gaudy Attire unbecoming Goodness, nor letting them have Money to gratify themselves therein.

Let the Aged remember & the Youth know that when apparent Signs of the Plague of Leprosie appeared on the Walls in the Houses of Israel twas the Care of the priests under the Law to have the Houses cleansed, and the Lepers also: and surely Christs Priesthood should not fall short of their Care to endeavour to stop and remove the manifest Tokens of the Leprosie of the great Sin of Pride, and all superfluity of naughtiness: and therefore let all concerned be earnestly stirred up to sincere obedience to the Light of Christ our great High-Priest that he may cleanse the Hearts & Houses of that growing Plague, which tend to the ruin of Families & Posterities.



1712

1712

*Advised* that none despise the Day of small Things nor turn aside from the plainness Simplicity and Life of Truth, into the Words, Ways, Customs and Fashions of the World, which are vain, and will perish with the using: God having redeemed his People out of the same, through his righteous Judgments in their inward parts knowing that whatsoever hath been condemned & overturned thereby, is never to be built up again by any that are Lovers of the Truth as it is in Jesus.

1715

1715

to follow  
the  
Examples  
of holy  
Ancients

extravagant  
Wigs

Danger  
of flying  
the Cross.

*Advised* that all Friends both Male and Female be carefull that their adorning be that of a meek and quiet Spirit, which in the sight of God is of Great Price, even as the holy Men & Women of old professing godliness with good Works were adorned. Oh! that our young Men & Women would follow their Examples, but to our great grief we find too many of our young Men, instead of observing that Gospel Exhortation, to be sober minded have given way to lightness & vanity, and the pernicious effects thereof have led them into pride, so that some have cutt off good heads of Hair and put on long extravagant gay Wigs which they that are not of profession with us see as a mark of declension from our primitive Plainness.

And likewise that our young Women would cease from that unseemly and immodest appearance of their high heads, and wearing their Gowns set up like the proud Fashion-mongers of the World.

Certainly both Males and Females who take such undue measures, flee the Cross of Christ, and if they do not repent and return, they will thereby suffer great loss.

But in the Bowels of Christian compassion we warn and exhort all such to come into that subjection that the Yoke of Christ may be their delight and their Souls may reap the comfortable Fruits of bearing the same.

And.



1715  
Caution  
against  
false  
Liberty

Pride  
mist  
Marriages  
bowing flat  
Titles &c

And caution given against false Liberty and  
sinfull Ease in the Flesh, which is too apt to grow  
among some professing the same Truth with us  
in this our Day for want of due Watchfulness, &  
Obedience to the Light of Christ and keeping low  
and humble before the Lord by reason whereof many  
evils get in amongst us viz: Pride of Apparel  
making mist Marriages with persons of contrary  
Judgment, Bowing, and giving flattering Titles to  
Men the saying ye or you to a single person and cal-  
ling the Days of the Weeks and the Months by their  
Names to the declining of Truths Testimony  
and giving occasion of stumbling to such as are  
seeking after the Knowledge of the Same as it is in  
Jesus.

1718  
Testimony  
against  
undue  
Liberty

vain  
Fashions

Gold Chains  
Necklaces  
Gold Watches

Necked Neck  
and Breasts  
hooped  
petticoats

Furniture

Speech

1718  
Testimony against an undue Liberty  
which too many under the profession of Truth  
run into, to the great Grief of Faithfull Friends,  
by reason whereof the way of Truth is evil spoken  
of and our holy profession greatly reproached by  
many <sup>men</sup> amongst us putting on extravagant Wigs,  
and wearing their Hats and Cloaths after the vain  
Fashions unbecoming the gravity of Religious  
Peoples, and too many Women decking themselves  
with gaudy and costly Apparel: Gold Chains,  
Sockets, Necklaces, and Gold Watches exposed to  
open view, which shows more of pride & Ostentation  
than for use & Service, besides their vain imitation  
of that immodest Fashion of going with naked  
Necks & Breasts, and wearing hooped petticoats, in-  
consistent with that modesty which should adorn  
their Sex, and did adorn the holy Women of old.  
And in like manner vanity of mind amongst  
us run into great extravagancies in the Furniture of  
their Houses: together with a great declension in  
some of both Sexes from the Plainness & Sim-  
plicity of speech so constantly used in holy Scripture  
and recommended and practiced by our ancient Friends  
as well as by the faithfull in this Day.

Now



1718

Now this Meeting having been under a deep sense of the Love of Christ, doth earnestly recommend they laying aside of those things before mentioned and whatsoever else is a hurt to themselves and <sup>brings</sup> reproach upon us for certainly it does not become the gravity of our profession or any under it, to run into every new vain fantastick Mode or Fashion, but to keep to that which is modest, decent plain and usefull: and therefore Friends every where are desired to stand witnesses against these and all other things that tend to lay waste <sup>our</sup> ancient Testimony.

not to adorn Children with gaudy Apparell

And that Parents in the tender Years of their Children would not adorn them with gaudy Apparell which Practice cannot come from the Spirit that leads out of the vain Customs of the World, but must proceed from pride in the Parents: and Children being led into such Vanities and Sineries, come gradually to be in love with them, which is apt to increase, with their Years to that Degree, untill it may be found very difficult to reclaim them.

1732

1732

keep under the power of the Cross

As it is evident that the simplicity & distinguishing Plainness of our holy profession is too much lost amongst us respecting Language, Apparell & Behaviour, we therefore earnestly exhort all to keep under the power of the Cross of Christ, which will crucify to the World and the Vanities of it, and bring up in a true Life of self Denial agreeable to the Gospel, & Example of our Elders.

1735

1735

And forasmuch as a true Christian practice and every Branch of it, is the Fruit and Effect of the inward Sanctification of the heart by the Spirit of Christ for <sup>whom</sup> we are frequently to wait on him in all humility and lowliness of mind, we tenderly advise that every thing tending to obstruct or divert the mind either of Children or those of more advanced Years from this good



## Plainness

1735 Exercise may be carefully avoided and taken out of the way and it being evident that the Glory & Vanity of the World, and the pleasures & diversions of it are of this Nature & Tendency: we therefore advise, that all parents and Masters in the first place be good Examples to their Children & Families in an humble and circumspect Walking, and with all plainness of Habit and Speech which is agreeable to the Cross of Christ the Examples of our ancient Friends and the frequent Advices of this Meeting: and also that they be very careful not to indulge their Children in the use and practice of things contrary thereto. for we are sensible that by such habits of how little moments soever some may think them the tender minds of Children while very young being lifted up and drawn aside from the simplicity of Truth a Foundation is early laid for those undue Liberties so justly complained of, for a Love & delight in such things imprudently indulged at first, grows up with them & becomes strengthened more & more into confirmed Habits and thus some have become Enemies to the Cross of Christ and forsaken and opposed the way of Truth which possibly might have been prevented by parents doing their Duty in being good Examples and not cherishing Seeds of Vanity and folly in their Children but on the contrary prudently discouraging every Appearance of Evil in them: which necessary Duty we earnestly recommend to their serious consideration & practice.

1736

1736

See Conversation, page, 56. —

1737

1736

See Families, page, 106. —

1739



1739.

1739 'Tis also our concern to exhort all Friends both Men and Women, to watch against the growing Sin of Pride and to beware of adorning themselves in a manner disagreeable to the plainness & simplicity of the Truth we make profession of. Oh! that they would duly consider that severe reproof which the Lord by the Mouth of his Prophet pronounced against the haughty Daughters of Zion Isaiah. 3. where he describes even the particularities of their dressings and Ornaments so displeasing to the Lord, and drawing down his Judgments upon them. If those things in that time were so offensive in the Eyes of the Lord how much more are they so now in a People professing the plainness & Simplicity which the Gospel of Christ recommended.

I will saith the Apostle Paul that Women adorn themselves in modest Apparel with shamefacedness & sobriety not with Broidered Hair or Pearls of Gold or costly array, but which becometh Women professing Godliness with good Works, 1. Timo. 2, 9, 10. Where he plainly sheweth that such adornings are contrary to the profession of Godliness, the Apostle Peter also is very full in his exhortations on this Subject whose adorning saith he let it not be that outward adorning of plaiting the Hair, and of wearing of Gold and of putting on of Apparel but let it be the hidden Man of the Heart, in that which is not corruptable, even the Ornament of a meek & quiet Spirit which is in the Sight of God of great price for after this manner in the old time the holy Women also who trusted in God adorned themselves 1. Pet. 3. 3, 4, 5. plainly intimating that those who of old were holy and trusted in God, placed not their delights in such Ornaments. Oh! that ye would weigh & consider these things: let your moderation be known unto all Men and grieve not the holy Spirit of God, but be ye followers of him as dear Children, walking circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise redeeming the time, because the Days are evil.

1743



## Plainness

1743

1743

And whereas we have with deep concern observed by accounts from divers places, that there is a great declension from that simplicity in speech behaviour and Apparel which our worthy Ancesters were led into, & as we find by experience that the same spirit of Truth which led our Ancesters to lay aside every thing unbecoming the followers of Christ will still lead in the same paths all who submit to its guidance, we earnestly intreat Friends every where to watch over themselves in these respects, and that Parents & Masters of Families would labour to convince those under their care how inconsistent the gratifying a vain & Worldly mind is with a Christian Life, and the plainness & purity of the Gospel, the example of our blessed Saviour and his Followers, and of virtuous & holy Men in all Ages, ought to make a due impression on every considerate mind, & especially on such as have had the advantage of an Education in a plainness agreeable to such Example.

Let not any such as degenerate in these respects excuse their own weaknesses under a pretence of the misconduct of some who have appeared outwardly plain and objection of very little weight for did they rightly consider, they would clearly see that the very reason why Deceivers sometimes put on plain Apparel is because true Men have been accustomed to wear it.

We also tenderly advise that Friends especially those who should be exemplary to others under their Care take heed that they exercise plainness of Speech without respect of persons, in all their converse among Men, and not baulk their Testimony by a cowardly compliance varying their Language according to their Company: a practice of very ill Example to our observing Youth: and rendering those who use it contemptible and looked upon



1743

upon as a kind of Hypocrites even by those with whom they so comply, such a mean Spirited practice, seems to be cautioned against by the Apostle where he Advises 1<sup>st</sup> Tim<sup>3</sup>: 8 That Deacons be grave, not double Tongued: a Caution plainly importing that double Tonguedness is insistent with the gravity of the Gospel. —











No<sup>o</sup> 31 Concerning the Poor.  
1693

1693

Advised, that if any poor Friends for the Future should incline to remove themselves & Families to this City, that before they unsettle themselves they apply to the Monthly or Quarterly Meetings to which they belong for advice and Counsel, and that such Meetings, do rather advertise them to be contented in their Stations & places, where Provisions, and accommodations may be much easier & cheaper obtained than at London or if permitted by Certificate to remove that then the Monthly or Quarterly Meetings from whence they come do take care to supply their necessities that the Friends of London may not be overcharged for the future.

1694

1694

Advised that care be taken that poor Friends Children may Freely partake of Education in order to apprenticeship.

1696

1696

Advised that such among Friends as are endowed with plenty of outward substance be timely & tenderly advised to do good therewith in their Day & generation, especially with regard to the poor, that the Tokens of their Charity may commend their Memorial and be good precedents to Generations to come.

That the rich remember the Poor, and do good in their life time: and if they make any settlement for the use of the poor to take Advice & Counsel that it may be done so that Friends may not be deprived of their Charity, and may be firm according to Law.

1698

1698

As to the endeavouring to procure an Act or Acts for employing and relief of the poor amongst us and Building a Workhouse or Workhouses, it's referred to the meeting



1698

meeting for Sufferings to proceed as the respective Counties shall give Directions to them & shall send up Friends to assist in soliciting for the said act or Acts for each County if they see meet.

1701

1701

It is desired that no poor Friends Children may want any necessary Learning.

1709

1709

Advised and desired, that where Friends want Ability in the World, their Monthly & Quarterly Meetings assist them that the Children of the poor may have due help of Education, instruction and necessary Learning, and that Children both of the Rich and poor may be early provided with industrious employments, that they may not grow up in Idleness looseness & vice; but that being thus seasoned with the Truths sanctified of God, taught our holy self-denying Way they may appear a Reputation to our holy profession the Comfort of their honest Parents, instruments to the Glory of God, and the good of the Generation coming on.

1710

1710

to have  
Certificates

Agreed that if any poor Friend or Friends for the time to come should incline to remove themselves and Families from the Limits & compass of one Quarterly or Monthly Meeting to another that before they unsettle themselves, they apply themselves, to such Meetings to which they belong for Advice and Counsel therein of which if the said Meeting to which they apply do approve that they then give a Certificate signifying such Meetings consent to their removal 2. When any Friend or Friends having such Certificate as above shall bring their Certificate to any Meeting to which it may be directed and the Meeting accept & receive their collection for the poor or put the said Friend or Friends into

2

what is to be  
deemed as  
Settlement



1710

into any Service of the Church in the Compass of the Meeting they remove into such receiving their collection or employment may well be deemed as Settlement within the Compass of such Meeting and altho such Friends or Friends may not be of ability to contribute to the Collection of the poor or the Services of the Monthly Meeting yet such Friend or Friends behaving him or themselves according to Truth, and not any ways chargeable to the said Meeting for the space of three Years after the delivery of his or their Certificate, they may also then be well deemed to belong to the Meeting within the Compass of which they shall so three Years inhabit.

Servants

3<sup>d</sup> Servant. Men and Women bringing a Certificate as aforesaid being hired for one Year & serving the same faithfully & Honestly, that then after such Year's service, they also may be well deemed to belong to the Meeting within the Compass whereof they served if they delivered into the meeting within that time the Certificate they had.

4<sup>th</sup>  
removing  
without  
a Certificate

4<sup>th</sup> If any professing Truths contrary to former Advice remove without a Certificate, and fall into want & apply to any Friend for assistance that then the Friend to whom they apply may write to the Meeting to which the distressed shall say he or they did belong to acquaint that Meeting of such a necessitous person and know how such person or persons did stand in the unity of Friends, and if such Necessitous person have not been denied before they became thus Chargeable that then the Meeting from whence they came and to whom they did belong, shall reimburse the Charges they have been or may be at on their account.

This Agreement to continue but for four Years unless it be there renewed.

1711

1711

An Explanation of the fourth Article in the last Years Agreement relating to the Settlement of the poor as follows, viz<sup>t</sup>

Jf



1711  
and  
Explana-  
tion to the  
4<sup>th</sup> Article  
in 1710

If any poor Friend or Friends shall unadvisedly remove from their Habitations without a Certificate and fall into want, and apply to any Friend where they come for assistance that then the Friend to whom they apply may write to the Meeting, to which the distressed shall say he or they did belong, to acquaint that Meeting of such a necessitous person and know how such person or persons did stand in the unity of Friends when they removed, and if such necessitous person have not been denied, or were owned before they become thus Chargable that then the Meeting from whence they came and to which they did belong do reimburse <sup>half</sup> the Charges, which have been expounded upon the Account of the necessitous for any time not exceeding three Months: in which time the Meeting from whence they came shall desire the necessitous person to return, which they are desired to do with all reasonable expedition so soon as health and ability of Body shall admit and the Friends where they are are desired to advise and assist them in such return: after w<sup>ch</sup> neither Meeting is obliged to continue their Care and Charge in Case they refuse.

But if they be such as are not Friends, or are disorderly persons pretending to profess Truth then neither Friends from whence they came nor Friend to whom they do come, are to be under any obligation to maintain such necessitous persons: yet not to restrain them Charity of any particular Friend or Friends from affording present relief to any necessitous person.

1714  
The Agreement of the Yearly Meeting 1710, for the settlement of the poor, with the amendment of the fourth Article the next Year, is now agreed to be continued.



1718 The Advice of 1709 repeated: and with respect to the poor among us, it ought to be considered, that the poor both Parents & Children are of our Family, and ought not to be turned off to any others to be either supported or educated: and altho some may think the poor a Burthen, yet remember where our poor are well provided for and walk orderly, they are an Ornament to our Society: and the Rich should consider it is more blessed to give than to receive: and he who gives to the poor lends to the Lord who will repay again.

1718  
the  
poor  
are  
our  
Family  
& not to  
be turned  
off

1720 As Mercy Compassion & Charity are eminent-ly required in this new Covenant Dispensation we are under, so care of the poor & Indigent among us, to see there be no Beggar in our Israel, is the concur- rant Advice of this Meeting, that all poor Friends among us may be taken due care of, and none of them sent to the parish to be relieved that nothing be wanting for their necessary supply; which has been according to our ancient practice & Testimony and it has long been of good Report, that we have not only maintained our own poor, but also con- tributed our share to the poor of the respective parishes wherein we dwell.

No  
Beggars  
to be  
among  
us

none to  
be sent  
to the  
parish

See Questions, page 248

1721 Question being proposed about the Settlement of Friends before that made in 1710.

This Meeting concludes, that all that were not denied, are to be esteemed Members of the several Monthly Meetings in whose Compass they then resided: and it is the sense of this Meeting that it was not intended by the minute of 1710 to affect the Settlement of Friends before that time.

1721



1724

1724 An explanation of the Settlement of the poor agreed to at the Yearly Meeting in 1724 But not to break or interfere with any particular agreement of the Monthly Meetings of London among themselves is as follows viz

That if any Friend or Friends for the to have future should incline to remove him her or themselves and families from the Limits and Compass of one Monthly or Quarterly Meeting to another, that before they remove, they request a Certificate for such their removal.

When any Friend or Friends having a Certificate of his her or their good behaviour, as above, shall bring such Certificate to any Meeting to which it may be directed, and the Meeting accept or receive their Collection or put the said Friend or Friends into any Service of the Church in the Compass of the Meeting they remove into such receiving their Collection or Employments shall or may well be deemed as Settlement within the Compass of such Meeting and altho' such Friend or Friends may not be of ability to contribute to the Collection for the poor or the Services of the Monthly Meeting, yet such Friend or Friends behaving him her or themselves according to the Truth, and no way chargable to the said Meeting, for the space of three Years, may then also be deemed to belong to the Meeting within the Compass of which they shall so three Years inhabit.

Servants Men and Women, bringing a Certificate as aforesaid, being hired one Year and serving the same faithfully, after such Years Service, shall and may well be deemed to belong to such Monthly Meeting within the Compass whereof they so served.

Notwithstanding the several Minutes of settlement in relation to the poor there hath arisen some Disputes among Friends concerning the same, we think it necessary to add, that if any Friend or Friend do



1724

do for the future remove from one Monthly Meeting to another to settle there, that then the Monthly Meeting to which such are removed shall as soon as possible enquire of the Friend or Friends so removed for a Certificate and for want thereof that then the Monthly Meeting where such Friend or Friends are so residing shall write to the Monthly Meeting from whence they came to request a Certificate in behalf of such Friend or Friends, but if the Monthly Meeting where such are then residing do neglect to write to the Monthly Meeting from whence they came for such a Certificate for the space of three Years after such residence among them, that then it shall be deemed a settlement to such Friend or Friends in such monthly Meeting they have for three Years so resided, unless such person or persons were Insolvent or denied before their removal.

We think the Minute in the Year 1711 may stand with the following alterations viz: that the Word Poor in the first Line be left out, and that the whole instead of half the Charges be reimburs'd according to the Directions of the said Minute

1729

1729

Rules & directions relating to removals and Settlements among Friends agreed upon by the Yearly Meeting held in London, in the third Month 1729.

1729

First if any Friend for the time to come should incline to remove him her or themselves & Families from the Limits and Compass of one Quarterly or Monthly Meeting to another, before they unsettle themselves they apply to such Meeting to which they belong for advice and Counsel therein of which if the said Meeting to which they apply do approve, they give a Certificate signifying such Meetings consent to their removal.

Secondly



Q 729  
2:what  
may be  
deemed a  
Settlement.

Secondly, when any Friend or Friends having a Certificate of his her or their <sup>good</sup> Behaviour and shall bring such Certificate to any Monthly Meeting to which it may be directed, and the Meeting accept and receive their Collection or put the said Friend or Friends into any Service of the Church in the Compass of the Meeting they remove into such receiving their Collection or Employment, shall or may well be deemed a Settlement within the Compass of such Meeting, and altho' such Friend or Friends may not be of ability to contribute to the Collection for the poor or the Service of a Monthly Meeting: yet such Friend or Friends behaving him her or themselves orderly in Conversation and no ways chargeable to the said Meeting, for the space of three Years after the delivery of their Certificate, or Advice thereof from the Meeting from whence he she or they came, may then also be deemed to belong to the Meeting within the Compass of which they shall so three Years inhabit.

Q  
3: Servants

Thirdly. Servant Men and Women bringing a Certificate, as aforesaid, being hired one Year and honestly serving the same in one Family after such Years Service shall and may be deemed to belong to the Meeting within the Compass whereof their Masters or Mistresses shall be proper members.

th  
4:

Fourthly. that the two Weeks, Monthly or Quarterly Meeting giving a Certificate to any person or persons shall speedily write to the Meeting to which the said Certificate is directed, giving Notice thereof, and if they omit writing, and the person do not deliver his or her Certificate then the person removing shall still belong to the Meeting from whence he or she came; But if either the Meeting give notice or the person deliver his or her Certificate then the person inhabiting three Years

as



1729 as before, shall be deemed a Member of the Meeting into which he or she is come.

5<sup>th</sup> Fifthly. If any professing Truth shall contrary to former Advice, remove without a Certificate and fall into want and apply to any Friend for Assistance that then the Friend to whom they apply may write to the Meeting to which the Distressed shall say he<sup>she</sup> or they did belong, and acquaint that Meeting of such a necessitous person or persons, to know how such person or persons did stand in the Unity of Friends, and if such necessitous person or Persons have not been denied, but owned before they became thus Chargeable that then the Meeting from whence they came, and to which they did belong shall reimburse the Charges they have been or may be at on their Account: and if the Meeting from whence such necessitous person or persons did come shall desire them to return, which they are then desired to do with all expedition so soon as health and ability of Body will admit and the Fr: where they are, are desired to advise and assist them in such return; but if such person shall refuse to return according to such Advice after the space of three Months, neither Meeting is obliged to continue their Care and Charge: yet this is not intended to restrain the Charity of any particular Friend or Fr: from affording present relief to any necessitous person.

6<sup>th</sup> Sixthly. But if any Friend or Friends remove without a Certificate, 'tis desired, that the Monthly Meeting from whence they came, should make enquiry, and information whereto they are removed and write to such Quarterly, Monthly or two Weeks Meeting, giving account of their Behaviour & circumstances and if such Friend or Friends shall continue for the space of three Years after such Account received, within the Compass of the Monthly Meeting whereto he she or they are removed, behaving during that time orderly, and no way chargeable, nor become insolvent, may then also be deemed to belong to the Meeting within the Compass of which they shall so three Years inhabit



1729 inhab. provided they were neither disowned nor Insolvent before they removed.

7<sup>th</sup> Seventhly that nothing herein contained shall interfere with any particular agreement among the Monthly Meetings in London respecting their poor.

8<sup>th</sup> Eighthly. That every Quarterly or Monthly Meeting communicate this agreement to the particular Meetings in order to its being publicly read at the close of Meetings for Worship, within three months, or as often as they may see a service in it that none may plead Ignorance.

to be  
liberals to  
the poor  
in times of  
Scarcity or  
Sickness

We find our selves at this time engaged to request that Friends in any part of this Kingdom or other places where Provisions & Necessaries of Life are dear & scarce, or sickness doth remarkably afflict, would in proportion to such Scarcity or affliction exhort their charitable Assistance to the poor which is our Christian Duty, as Stewards of the many mercies wherewith the Lord has entrusted us.

1733

1733 Whereas different sentiments have been in the minds of divers Friends with respect to the minute of 1721: relating to Settlements: A Question was put what was meant by the residence:

It was therefore resolved in this Meeting, that the same shall be taken in the most extensive Sense of the Words, as with respect to all Cases or persons inhabiting in any place before the Year 1710 not being then disowned by Friends.

1735

1735 See Questions, page 249.

1737

1737 See Removals and Settlements, page, 261 to 268.



1744

1744  
all  
monthly  
meetings  
to support  
their own  
poor, see  
Removals  
&  
Settlement  
to  
po

It is the Sense of this Meeting, that all Monthly Meetings ought to take Care of and sufficiently support all poor Friends within the Limits of each Monthly Meeting according to our present Rule, and if such <sup>business doing is overcharged that then the quarterly meeting</sup> Monthly Meeting shall on application made give them such relief as may be necessary.





## No. 32. Concerning Preachers.

1689

1689

Caution  
against  
such as  
go up and  
down  
preaching  
who are  
out of  
unity

A Concern coming upon Friends of this Meeting concerning several Persons both Men and Women, who go rambling idly up and down the Countries under pretence of preaching Truth who are out of the Unity of Friends in their own Country, whose Conversations and Examples are not savory as becomes the Truth. Friends in the several Counties should beware of such, and give <sup>no</sup> encouragement nor countenance to them, but warn them to return and settle in their places and honest Employments, and seek unity with their own Meetings.

1695

1695

This Meeting desires and hopes that you whom the Lord hath gifted with a publick Testimony for his Name and Truth will in this Day of Liberty be diligent to visit the Heritage of God in their Meetings and ~~most~~ especially those least frequented.

1698

1698

Preachers  
who are  
burthen-  
some to  
be admon-  
ished &  
persisting  
therein  
to be  
testified  
against

Where Friends in any County are really dissatisfied or Burthened with any that take upon them to preach among them, let them first be duly admonished in their own County with the Assistance of the faithfull approved Ministers and Elders of the same Meeting & County or adjacent County or Counties if need be, and if afterwards they will persist to impose upon and burthen Friends, then to be publicly Testified against where they so impose.

If any such after due admonitions will travel abroad to minister out of unity with Friends of their own County, the Friends of those other Counties where they Travel should have due Notice of them from Friends who have had them under Admonition.

1699



## Preachers

1699

1699 This Meeting recommends to the several  
 who travel Monthly and Quarterly Meetings in the several  
 to be in Counties that they take care to advise that those  
 Unity with Friends that go forth with a publick Testimony  
 their own Meetings may be such that are well approved at home by  
 &c. their own respective Monthly or Quarterly Meetings &  
 are sound in Doctrine, and of good conversation and in  
 Unity with their own Meetings.

And if any faithfull Friends or Meetings be  
 to deal privately burthened with the Contrary, let them tenderly clear  
 before they their Consciences privately to the parties concerned,  
 acquaint giving them Gospel Order and if they dont answer it  
 the Meeting not receive due Admonitions that the Meeting to which  
 they <sup>belong</sup> may be acquainted therewith: and the second  
 Days Morning Meeting is desired to send this, on this  
 Meetings behalf to the several Monthly & Quarterly  
 Meetings, with the Copy of the Minute <sup>made</sup> re-  
 lating to this Matter last Year

1702 Agreed that Friends in the several Coun-  
 ties should be cautioned not to receive any as  
 preachers among them that are denied by Friends  
 or testified against by the Monthly Meeting to wh<sup>ch</sup>  
 they did belong.

1713

1713 There being several Omissions concerning  
 publick Friends deceased in the Accounts brought  
 up, it is desired, that care be taken to send up to this  
 Meeting the time of their decease and of their con-  
 versations Labours & Service in the Work of Truth.

1716

1716 See Meetings for Worship, page 172.

1720



1720

1720

to be  
cautions  
not to be  
imposed  
upon

and  
ministers  
who travel  
to have  
Certificates

Meetings  
to watch  
over young  
ministers  
& advise  
them

Friends in the respective Counties and Meetings are, earnestly desired and. Advised that they use prudence and Caution so as not to be imposed upon by Imposters or Cheats pretending to the Ministry or otherwise and where there is doubt or question of the Ministry of any Persons in that Case, that such be called upon to shew what Certificate they have: and in general it is tenderly recommended to the Monthly & Quarterly Meetings to see that Friends who Travel as in the Work of the Ministry, do go in the unity of the Meetings to which they belong, and with Certificates therefore.

And further, that it may become the tender Care of the said several Meetings to watch over such as may be young in the Ministry to see that they walk humbly and Wisely that as on the one hand nothing truly tending to the Glory of God, and the Edification of his Church & People may be discouraged so on the other hand where any thing appears which may make Advice necessary that the Elders of the Church both Ministers and others, do in the wisdom of God, give their Advice thereupon with due regard to the state of weakness & Childhood that such may be under.

1723

1723

to avoid  
publick  
opposition  
to a  
minister  
not  
disowning  
his Meeting  
for Worship  
1716 p. 172

giving  
cause  
of dissatis-  
faction to  
be dealt  
with

This Meeting taking under their serious consideration, the Beauty and Credit of keeping decency and good order in our Meetings for Worship advise Friends every where to avoid publick opposition to a Minister not disowned by Monthly or Quarterly Meeting to which he or she shall belong, by keeping on of Hats or making any other appearances or Distinctions of disunion; but that if any person pretending to be a Minister shall give cause of uneasiness or dissatisfaction to Friends in Doctrine Behaviour or Conversation, the person so offending to be dealt with privately in a Gospel Spirit and way, and if



1723  
 if that shall not take effect then that complaint  
 be made of such person to the Monthly Meetings to  
 which he or she shall belong, and that proceedings  
 thereupon be accordingly had and the affair settled  
 with all possible Speed and Expedition.

1727  
 See morning Meeting of Ministers, p 181

1728  
 We earnestly desire, that a tender & prudent  
 Care be on all monthly and Quarterly Meetings  
 pursuant to the Advice of Last Meeting to advise and  
 caution as they see meet, and particularly against all  
 indecent Postures and gestures, unintelligible Tones  
 and Sounds misquotations & misapplications of  
 Scripture which renders such a ministry con-  
 temptible. And that they do not grant Certificates  
 to Ministers to travel abroad to visit the Churches  
 untill they have full Satisfaction of their Qualifi-  
 cations for so great a Work, and are of orderly con-  
 versations, being well approved at home

Caution  
 against  
 indecent  
 Postures  
 & Tones  
 &c  
 to be fully  
 satisfied  
 before they  
 grant  
 Certificates

See Scriptures, p. 202

1730  
 Friends are desired to call on Strangers who  
 travel in the Ministry for Certificates, thereby in  
 all places to prevent being imposed upon as far as  
 may be.

See Meetings for Discipline, page, 155



1731

1731

An Epistle of Advice to ministering Friends  
that travel &c  
Dear & well beloved Friends

The Spirit of God being the  
Foundation of all true knowledge & experience both  
in Ministers and Hearers, we earnestly exhort that  
all would diligently wait upon and mind it. Ministers  
in their publick Services especially ought always to attend  
closely to their several & peculiar Gifts & Minister the  
Word faithfully as it's manifested and revealed to them,  
observing a decent and modest Behaviour in the  
exercise of their Ministry: and avoid intangling  
themselves with the Affairs of this Life, that they may  
the better answer the holy Warfare in which they  
are engaged: and let the Hearers be watchfull over  
their own Spirits and not forwardly Judge or censure  
the Testimonies which may be delivered amongst them:  
for if they be not very carefull & diligent in attending  
upon the Lord in Meetings they are liable to mistake  
in the Judgment they may pass on the Ministry.

Now this being as we apprehend a matter of  
great Moment for the preservation of Love and con-  
cord in the Churches, and knowing the danger & ill  
consequences which attend an hasty and censorious  
judging of the Ministry we thought it very necessary  
to caution the Members of the Monthly & Quarterly  
Meetings, not to let their own Spirits sway them, but  
let the Spirit of God rule and reign in the hearts of  
Friends, for that will preserve all in Sweetness &  
tenderness one towards another, the due Observation  
of this we judge will be a great help to Ministers  
in the Discharge of their Duty and Service to which they  
are called.

And we earnestly request that the Elders  
in Monthly & Quarterly Meetings would be ready  
to inform the weak when suitable opportunities  
presents, that both Ministers & Hearers pursuing



1731

Ministers  
to keep  
good har-  
mony with  
their  
Mon<sup>thly</sup> Meet<sup>g</sup>s

& be  
ready to  
receive  
advice

Monthly  
Meetings  
to be  
carefull  
in giving  
Certificates

one and the same End namely the Glory of God and the good and welfare one of another the Church may be Edified increased & flourish to the consolation of the Faithfull: on the other hand we advise, that Ministers have it very much at heart to maintain a perfect Harmony and good understanding with the Monthly Meeting to which they belong: and that as the said Meetings may sometimes find themselves concerned to advise them respecting their conduct in meetings or otherwise, that they shew themselves ready to hear & receive Advice, as well as teach and instruct.

And dear Friends we further tenderly advise all Monthly Meetings to take great care to whom they give Certificates when they Travel to prevent the uneasiness which sometimes falls on the Churches from a weak & unskillfull Ministry, and let the Elders where they see occasion advise Ministers to be very prudent in their Conduct not as busy Bodies nor medlers with Family or personal Affairs in which they are not concerned or required to be assisting: and that they be very tender of one anothers Reputation, and that of Friends among whom they travel, neither giving ear to nor spreading Reports apt to rise in the Minds of others a lessening or disesteem of any of the Brotherhood and as soon as their service in the Ministry is over that they return to their Habitations and there take a reasonable & prudent care of their own business Household and Family.

1736



1736 And as the Lord in Mercy is breathing a  
fresh one several of our Youth of both Sexes, and filling  
them for his Service, we recommend it to the Elders in  
every Meeting that they tenderly watch over all young  
Ministers, and advise and help them, as they in the  
Wisdom of Truth may be opened thereunto, nourish-  
ing that which is right and comes forth in the Sa-  
vour of Life and discouraging every thing that is  
indecent or unbecoming the Ministry.

1737 If any Friend who has been a publick Minis-  
ter among you shall be guilty of such practices as may just-  
ly deserve your publick censure and shall be publick-  
ly censured or disowned by you and afterwards upon  
showers of repentance may be again admitted into  
membership, we do think meet to advise you that  
such readmission be not interpreted to give him other  
the Liberty of appearing as a publick Minister un-  
till the Monthly Meeting he or she belongs to shall  
judge the Scandal given by such Person so far remov-  
ed as such publick appearance may not minister  
occasion of reproach either from Friends or others,  
and in case any shall shew themselves too forward  
in so appearing the Meeting to which they belong  
are desired to give them such advice as they shall  
see suitable to their Circumstances.

1738 Where we consider that it was the power of God  
which first gathered us to be a people & enabled our  
Ancients to bear a faithfull Testimony to his  
Name we cannot but exhort you time after time  
to wait for a renewed enjoyment of the power of Truth  
upon your Hearts, that thereby you may be encouraged  
to come up in your respective Services and in a  
conscientious Suffering for the Christian Testimony  
you are concerned to bear.

Our



1738

Our blessed Lord just before his Ascension commanded his Disciples & Followers to wait at Jerusalem till they were endued with power from on high knowing their inability without the sensible feeling of that power to speak in his Name for the Conversion of the Nations: 'twas this power that enabled them to speak boldly in the Name of Jesus: this alone made them able Ministers of Christ whose preaching was not with enticing Words of Man's Wisdom, but in the demonstration of the Spirit and power. And seeing many of us have experienced much Spiritual Consolation by waiting in Silence and humbly depending upon the Lords alone we exhort Friends to be very careful to observe the Hours appointed for religious Worship, and that when together they Labour to feel their Minds abstracted from visible objects into a true stillness & nothingness of Self wherein the Teachings of the holy Spirit are Witnessed by humble and contrite Souls: in such as waiting State you will have a true relish & Savour of the Ministry of those who are rightly concerned by the same Spirit to Labour in Word & Doctrine among you.

1740

1740

Testimonies concerning publick Friends deceased to be recorded. See Records page 267

1743

1743

And dear Friends we farther desire & tenderly advise as heretofore. See page, 234 in 1727  
page, 235 in 1731  
page 237 in 1736

That the Quarterly and Monthly Meetings would appoint some elder Friends sound in the Faith, and of good discerning to be advising and assisting to those who may be concerned to minister among us, and in Love to caution them respecting such mistakes, either in Judgment or Expression as through human frailty even good Men may sometimes be incident to.

And



1743

accounts  
of publick  
Friends  
deceased

And that in sending up to this Meeting the Accounts of publick Friends deceased, care be taken where no particular Testimony concerning them is given that nevertheless the Age, place of abode, time of Death, & place of Burial, as also how long they had been Ministers, be Expressly mentioned.

Whereas

1745

1745

Disorderly  
persons  
who travel  
up & down  
preaching  
without  
Certificates  
&c  
to be kept

it appears unto this Meeting that some persons who are not in unity with their monthly meetings where they dwell, do travel up and down without Certificate or Recommendation, imposing themselves as preachers among Friends to the Exercise and Trouble of the Churches where they come: we do desire that all such Friends as Travel in the Work of the Ministry with the unity & approbation of their respective Meetings: would be strictly careful not to countenance or join with any such imposers but rather to advise against such their disorderly practice, and endeavour to persuade them to return to their callings & Habitations: and Friends of the several monthly or other meetings where such disorderly persons may come are desired to enquire of them for their Certificates by the want of which they may be able to discover that their Travelling abroad is not with the approbation of Friends where they dwell and who consequently are the proper Judges of their Call to, and Qualifications for the Work of the Ministry to which they pretend.

And we do in much Love caution those Friends who are rightly concerned in the Work of the Ministry to watch over their own Spirits, and not to be over hasty, rash or censorious in passing Judgment respecting the State of those who hear them, but to manifest, that in the exercise of their Ministry they are led by the Love of God and that their principle aim is they may be instrumental to administer Spiritual Consolation and Strength to the Churches where they come.

And

1745

And further we earnestly exhort that none would offer to impose themselves as preachers in any meetings of Friends who are not themselves found faithfull against the payment of Tithes and in observing the other Branches of our ancient Christian Testimony. See









# Prisoners

245

## N<sup>o</sup> 33 Concerning Prisoners 1676

1676 See Records, page, 253.

1681

1681 Advised that an Account be Yearly sent up of all such Friends as are in prison or prisoners that we may know who are detained prisoners, and who are discharged since the Yearly Meeting before: and when discharged also to signify the time of their Commitment, by whom prosecuted and for what Cause, and that distinct Accounts be brought up of all such Friends as have died in prison or prisoners for their Testimony to the Truth since the foregoing yearly Meeting, with their Names, Ages, dwelling places Education, Calling, Time of confinement, and the places of their Travel and Service and Time of Sufferings & Deaths.

1682

1682 See Questions, page, 247.  
and Records page, 254.

1696

1696 See Questions, page, 247.

1700

1700 See Records — page, 256.

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34. Questions proposed at the Yearly Meeting for the Friends who appear from the respective Quarterly Meetings to give Answer to.

1742

1742

Queries altered

new Queries

altered to p. 248.

The Committee appointed to consider the Queries, instead of the former Queries have drawn up the following, which were here several times read, duly considered & agreed to, and it is agreed by this Meeting, that the several Counties send up their Answers to the Queries to this Meeting separate from their Accounts of Sufferings, which for the future are agreed to be taken immediately after the Accounts of Sufferings are entered.

- 1<sup>st</sup> What present Prisoners?
- 2<sup>d</sup> How many discharged since last Year, when & how?
- 3<sup>d</sup> How many died Prisoners?
- 4<sup>th</sup> How many Meeting Houses built? And what Meetings new settled?
- 5<sup>th</sup> How many publick Friends died & where?
- 6<sup>th</sup> What is the State of your Meeting? is there any growth in the Faith: and doth any conviction appear since last Year: and is Love & Unity preserved amongst you?
- 7<sup>th</sup> Is it your Care by Example & Precept to train up your Children in all goodly Conversation and in frequent reading the Holy Scriptures, as also in plainness of Speech Behaviour & Apparel?
- 8<sup>th</sup> Do you bear a <sup>faithful</sup> Christian Testimony against the receiving or paying Tithes? and against bearing of Arms? And do you Admonish such as are unfaithful thereing?
- 9<sup>th</sup> Do you stand clear in our Testimony against depaunding the King of his Customs, Duties or excise, or in dealing in Goods suspected to be run?



## Questions

1742. 10<sup>th</sup>: How are the Poor among you provided for? and what Care is taken for the Education of their Offspring.

11<sup>th</sup>: Do you keep a Record in your Monthly and Quarterly Meetings of the prosecutions and Sufferings of your respective Members? and have you a Record for your Meeting-Houses and Burial Grounds?

1744

It is agreed by this Meeting, that the eighth Query be altered & amended as followeth, viz:

1744  
the 8<sup>th</sup>  
Query  
altered.

Do you bear a faithfull & Christian Testimony against the receiving or paying Tithes, Priest's Demands, and those called Church's Rates? Bearing Arms and paying Troop Money? And do you admonish such as are unfaithfull therein?

1760

1760 At the Yearly Meeting held in Newport, on Rhode Island it was agreed & concluded that the following Queries should be here added and all the former Queries from London to the Year 1742, to be omitted in transcribing and these only to be in use among us.

- 1<sup>st</sup>: Are all Meetings for religious Worship and Discipline, duly attended the hour observed, and are Friends preserved from Sleeping or any indecent Behaviour therein particularly chewing Tobacco or taking Snuff?
- 2<sup>d</sup>: Is Love and unity maintained amongst you as becomes Brethren; are Tale bearing, Backbiting and evil Reports discouraged, and where Differences arise are endeavours speedily used to end them?



- 3<sup>d</sup> Are Parents of Children carefull to bring them up in plainness of Speech, Behaviour and Apparel and in the frequent reading the Holy Scriptures, to restrain them from reading pernicious Books, and the corrupt conversation of the World?
- 4<sup>th</sup> Are Friends carefull to avoid the frequent use of Spirituous Liquors, unnecessary frequenting of Taverns and Places of publick resort and in all their Conversation walk as becomes the professors of the Blessed Truth in true Moderation and Temperance on the Account of Births Marriages, Burials, and all other Occasions?
- 5<sup>th</sup> Are poor Friends necessities duly inspected, they relieved, or assisted in such Business as they are capable of: do their Children freely partake of Learning to fit them for Business, and are they and other Friends Children placed among Friends.
- 6<sup>th</sup> Do no young and unmarried persons make proposals of Marriage with each other without consent of parents and Relations concerned, nor keep company with those of other Societies on that Account?
- 7<sup>th</sup> Do no Widowers or Widows make or admit of proposals of marriage too early after the decease of former Husband or Wife, and are not the rights of Children by former marriages neglected?
- 8<sup>th</sup> Do you maintain a faithfull Testimony against the payment of Priests Wages, bearing of Arms, Training or Military Service and against depriving the King of his Duties or buying or vending of Goods suspected to be run?
- 9<sup>th</sup> Are Friends carefull to make their Wills and settle their outward Estates whilst in Health and take Friends Advice therein when necessary, and are publick Gifts or Legacies applied to the uses intended by the Donors?
- 10<sup>th</sup> Are Friends clear of importing Negroes, or buying them when Imported, and use those well where they are possessed by Inheritance or otherwise endeavouring to train them up in the principles of Religion?



# Questions

11<sup>th</sup> Are Friends carefull to live within the bounds of their Circumstances and to avoid launching into Trade and Business beyond their ability to manage, and thereby break their promises, and neglect the payment of their just Debts, and are such as give reasonable Ground of Fear on these Accounts timely laboured with for their recovery? —

12<sup>th</sup> Are ther any belonging to this Meeting removed without a Certificate or are there any come from other places appearing as Friends who have not produced Certificates? —

13<sup>th</sup> Are you concerned regularly to deal with all Offenders in the Spirit of Meekness and Wisdom without partiality or unnecessary delay and where any continue obstinate, to place judgment upon them in the Authority of Truth.

And it is further recommended that all Contention and personal Reflection & Smiting be kept out of our meetings, that all Friends be carefull to keep out of Heats, & Passions and doubtful Disputations and that we suffer no turbulent contentious Persons amongst us in ordering or managing the Affairs of Truth; but that the same be managed in the peaceable Spirit & Wisdom of Jesus with Decency forbearance & Love to each other.









## No. 35. Concerning Records.

1675

See Discipline, page, 85.

1676

1676

what  
matters  
are to be  
recorded

Agreed that Friends of the monthly & quarterly Meetings of each County be reminded to keep an exact Account among themselves.

1<sup>st</sup> Of those that first brought the message of Glad Tidings among them.

2<sup>d</sup> Of the Sufferings of the first Messengers whether at Shoppe-houses, Market places or otherwise.

3<sup>d</sup> What Friends first received them & their Message.

4<sup>th</sup> Of the Names, Travels, Faithfulness & unblamable Conversation of all the publick Labourers that are deceased.

5<sup>th</sup> What Judgments fell upon Persecutors.

6<sup>th</sup> Where the Hearts of any such Enemies have been turned to God let them and their Conversion be recorded.

7<sup>th</sup> What Priests and others have written Books against Friends, and who have answered them.

8<sup>th</sup> Who have suffered Loss of Goods or sustained Imprisonment, with the cause, time and manner of <sup>such</sup> Sufferings with the Names of their persecutors.

9<sup>th</sup> Who have died in prison on Truths Account and for what Branch of our Testimony: and that Tithes taken away by force to be recorded as a Suffering for Truth.

10<sup>th</sup> Of Signal living Testimonies of dying Friends.

11<sup>th</sup> Of the Names of Persecutors, and the Name of Witnesses to the Facts whether Friends or neighbours.

12<sup>th</sup> If any have Apostatized, that their Sufferings whilst owning the Truth be notwithstanding recorded and their Apostacies signified.



1676 13<sup>th</sup> Of the return of any Backsliders or apostates and the Judgments befallen any of them And that in sending the Accounts of these Matters, and of Sufferings up to London care be taken to begin where they left off last and not to send the same twice over nor confusedly.

1678

1678 That care for the future be taken to keep a particular Book to enter Sufferings in each Monthly Meeting and by the Monthly Meetings an Account of the Sufferings be sent to the Quarterly Meetings and that the Quarterly Meetings transmit the Accounts Quarterly to the Clerk at London that nothing be lost in their Cases of Sufferings for our Testimony.

each Mon. Meeting to keep a Book to enter Sufferings and send Acc<sup>ts</sup> to the Quarterly Meeting

See Tithes page 321.

1680

1680 It is the desire of this Meeting that every Quarterly Meeting enter such papers as they have had from this or such like Meetings in their respective Quarterly Meeting Books, the better to secure them from being lost.

Yearly Meeting papers

1681

1681 See Prisoners, page 243.

1682

1682 Agreed that epistolary Letters read in this Yearly Meeting be entered in a Book and that the Letters themselves be kept by the Clerk.

Epistles

Draw up Sufferings fair in a Book, & not to draw all Tithes by themselves so for Suffering, so for conventicle Acts, so for twenty pounds a Month, each by themselves then take the Number of all that remain in prison, both old and new and the number of them that died in prison, and so keep a number of them all along that are put into prison.

Method for keeping Records.



1682 and that go out of Prison and keep a Yearly Number who goes in and who goes out and bring them up Yearly to the Yearly Meeting.

1689

1689 The Abstract of Friends Sufferings from several Counties being considered, the Meeting thinks it most convenient to have the Abstracts made from the Records out of those Sufferings that came up to the Yearly Meeting and which are recorded here, so that the meeting does not encourage the making abstracts in the Counties lest they should lessen Friends Sufferings, and when an History is taken and published it should be impartially done, and Accounts of the Stops put to persecutions, and of return of Goods, and discharge of Prisoners that have procured by the Solicitation of Friends to the Powers whose Hearts the Lord inclined to favour them.

1691

1691 It is desired that Friends keep the Yearly Meeting papers together in a Book in each Monthly & Quarterly Meeting.

1693

1693 It is desired, that Friends at all their Monthly and Quarterly Meeting be reminded to call for the Records of the Sufferings of Friends, to see that they be duly gathered entered & kept, and accordingly sent up, as hath been often advised both of what Times &c are pretended to be due, & for how long a time and the time when taken, and by and for whom and what Goods are taken, and the value thereof, as well of those not exceeding <sup>as those exceeding</sup> the Sums or Quantities demanded it being a Suffering in both for Truths sake: they being in those Particulars found defective, & imperfect in divers Counties: which is an obstruction to the general Record of Friends Sufferings, and therefore the Monthly & Quarterly Meetings are desired to take more care for



## Records

1693 for the future, that all Friends <sup>Sufferings</sup> for Truths sake may be brought up as full & compleat in all respects as possible may be.

1694

1694 Advised that when Friends send up their Yearly Accounts of Sufferings for Tithes &c as near as can be, they give account therewith, how much is taken in value and how much it exceeds the pretended value and by & for whom

Advised to remember to keep a true Record of Manifest Judgments upon Persecutors, and send up an Account thereof with the Sufferings Yearly, that the Just Judgments of God in pleading the Cause of the innocent Sufferers by signally punishing their persecutors may be taken notice of as a Warning to posterity: as the heavy Judgments, and fearfull ends of wicked persecutors are recorded in holy Scriptures and Books of Martyrs &c.

1695

1695 Advised to send up with the Sufferings true Copies of Warrants, Writs or processes of commitments attested by the Jailors.

1698

1698 See Tithes, page, 324.

1700

1700 Advised, that Friends keep exact & true Acc<sup>ts</sup> of all their Sufferings for Conscience sake both by Distresses Sequestrations and imprisonments that we may be capable to give a true Account thereof to the Government when necessity requires.

And to give speedy Accounts when Friends are Discharged from Imprisonments &c and by what means

1705



1705 <sup>1/05</sup> It is tenderly advised that Friends be carefull to stand faithfull in their Ancient Testimony, and keep exact Accounts of their Sufferings and when any Sufferings require speedy Care for Redress, and are written off to London tis desired the Case may be truly & fully Stated, dated & Subscribed by the Sufferer, and as often as can be attested by some known Friend.

1737 <sup>1/37</sup> See Questions, page. 267

1740 <sup>8/40</sup> This Meeting being informed, that there is a great deficiency in entering into a proper Book the Testimonies which are given forth by Monthly & Quarterly Meetings concerning publick Friends deceased, therefore order a Book to be got for that purpose, and the Testimonies to be entered as they are brought up.

And that the several Quarterly & Monthly Meetings from whence they come be particularly careful to enter the same in their Books of Records before said Testimonies are sent up.

1746 <sup>1/46</sup> See Sufferings page. 309.











## Rules for 36. Removals & Settlements.

1737

1737

1<sup>st</sup>

That all Friends shall be deemed Members of the Quarterly, Monthly, or two Weeks Meeting within the Compass of which they inhabited or dwell the first Day of the fourth Month 1737: except such who are settled Pensioners to or have within one Year last past been relieved by any other such Meeting: in that Case he she or they shall be deemed as Member or Members of the Meeting to which they are Pensioners or by whom they have been so relieved.

2<sup>d</sup>

That if any Friend or Friends shall remove him her or themselves and Family from the Limits or Compass of one Quarterly, Monthly or two Weeks Meeting into another, they shall apply to the Meeting to which they belong for a Certificate or other usual recommendation to the Meeting they are removed or purpose to remove into which being obtained & delivered to that Meeting such Friend or Friends shall from thence forward be deemed as member or Members of the Meeting they so removed into provided they were not Insolvent, or had been relieved by the Meeting recommending or some other Meeting on their behalf within the term of three Years preceding the delivery of such Certificate.

But if any Friend or Friends who hath delivered a Certificate, or been otherwise recommended, shall fall into Necessitous Circumstances, and shall ask & receive any relief within the above limited Time of three Years not having contributed to or been employed in any service of the Church, by the Meeting they were recommended to, such Friend or Friends shall then Continue to belong to the Meeting from whence they were recommended. yet the Meeting within the Compass of which he she or they reside shall assist & relieve him her or them, and give notice thereof to the Meeting which recommended him her or them and upon that Meetings receiving



1737 receiving such notice, they shall immediately take the necessary care of him her or them, and repay the Charge the Meeting to which they were recommended has been at on his her or their Account.

3

3. That no Friend or Friends Apprentices and other Servants excepted, shall gain a Settlement after the time above mentioned in any Meeting unless recommended by Certificate or other usual recommendation & the same duly delivered to the Meeting they are recommended to except the Meeting within the Compass of which they reside shall receive their Collection or Employ them in any Service of the Church: But in Case such Meeting shall receive their Collection or employ them in any service of the Church their so doing shall intitle such person or persons to membership with them agreeable to the restriction and tenor of the second paragraph.

4<sup>th</sup>

4<sup>th</sup> If any Friend or Friends shall fall into want the Monthly Meeting within the Compass of which they <sup>then</sup> reside shall take the necessary Care to relieve them, and in order to prevent any inconveniences that may arise from want of knowing with Certainty to what Meeting a poor Friend or Friends properly belong, at the time they fall into want whereby it may be rendered difficult for the Monthly Meeting which shall relieve such necessitous person to obtain repayment of the Charge they may be at on such Accounts, it is agreed, that where any poor Friend or Friends shall become chargeable to any Meeting where he she or they may reside and who at the same time are not proper Members thereof, that Meeting may apply to any Meeting where such Friend or Friends have been Members: and that Meeting upon notice to them given of such necessitous Friend or Friends shall take the needfull care of them: and repay the Charge the Meeting in which they reside hath been or shall be at. But if that Meeting shall apprehend such necessitous person or persons do not belong to them,

but



# Removals & Settlements 263

1737 but have gained a Settlement else where they may fix them on any other Meeting, where they have gained a Settlement, and in that Case, such Meeting shall repay them the Charges they have been at.

5<sup>th</sup> 5<sup>th</sup> Single Men and Women Servants being hired one Year and honestly serving the same in one Family, after such Years Service shall belong to the Meeting of which their Master or Mistress shall be Members: and such Servants shall so dwell with any who are not Friends, then they shall be deemed Members of the Monthly Meeting within the Compass of w<sup>ch</sup> their Master or Mistress shall live —

6<sup>th</sup> Apprentices shall gain a settlement in that Meeting within the Compass of which their Master or Mistress dwells at the time of his or her being bound, and living forty days with such Master or Mistress afterwards: and in Case an Apprentice shall be turned over to another Master or Mistress, he or she shall in like manner gain a Settlement after living with them forty Days, in the Meeting within the Compass of which the Master or Mistress dwell to whom to whom he or she is so turned over —

7<sup>th</sup> 7<sup>th</sup> Provided always that nothing herein contained shall be understood to hinder the usual & necessary care of Friends in their inquiry after Conversation and Clearness respecting marriage, but Certificates or other recommendation in that Case, shall continue to be required as heretofore hath been from such Meetings as the Friend hath belonged to. And whereas Disputes may arise about settlements where the man brings a Certificate, or recommendation from his own Monthly Meeting to another on Account of Marriage, It is hereby agreed that such Certificate or Recommendation shall not be constructed to make a Settlement unless his removal be expressed therein —

8<sup>th</sup> The Wife and Children to be deemed Members of the Monthly Meeting of which the Husband or Father is a Member, not only during his Life but likewise after his decease untill they shall gain another settlement elsewhere.



## Removals &amp; Settlements

9<sup>th</sup> 9<sup>th</sup> Provided always and it is hereby agreed that what charge any meeting have or may be at for the relief of any Friend or Friends who were before this Settlement Members of other Monthly Meetings shall be repaid to the said Meeting by the Meeting to which they did belong heretofore; and that if any Dispute should arise about the Settlements of such poor Friend or Friends now under relief such Settlement or Settlements shall be determined according to the former under the head poor. Rules and Directions which are <sup>not</sup> to be made use of in any other Cases.

Lastly  
which  
are under  
head poor.

Lastly All minutes, Orders & Directions heretofore made and recommended by this Meeting relating to Removals and Settlements of Friends, are hereby declared void and of no force, except in the Cases provided for in the ninth paragraph.

1740

1740 It is agreed, that no proposition for altering the Rules for Removals and Settlements of Fr.<sup>d</sup> made in 1737. shall be received by this Meeting unless such proposition shall be signed in and by order of a Quarterly Meeting or some other Meeting which do directly correspond with this Meeting

1747

1747 See Discipline page. 88, 89.



*Removals & Settlements*

265











N<sup>o</sup> 37 Concerning Representatives.

1672

1672

Advised, that one or two of each County that are concerned in the publick service of Truth, in each respective County, do come up to this Meeting once a Year, to be chosen or elected by the Quarterly Meeting of each County respectively for that purpose.

See Yearly Meeting, page 357

1687

1687

Advised that such faithfull Friends one or two of a County be desired to attend the Yearly Meeting as are most capable & fit for the service thereof.

1688

1688

That two faithfull Friends in every County may be desired to come up who know the state of Friends and their Sufferings, in their respective Counties.

1690

1690

That two faithfull understanding Friends in every County be desired to come up, who may be enabled to give a certain Account of the Condition & Sufferings of Friends in their respective Counties

1691

1691

That two faithfull understanding Friends in every County who are truly approved in universal Love, Unity & peace among Friends from whence they come may be desired to come up who may be enabled to give a certain & clear Account of the Condition and Sufferings of Friends, and of Truths prosperity in their respective Counties.

1700

1700

Agreed that no County send up less than two Friends, nor more than four to be entered

advised



## Representatives

1700 Advised that Friends bring brief & direct Answers to the Questions drawn up at the Quarterly Meetings and brought in writing to the Yearly Meeting.

1706

1706 See Questions, page, 248

1709

1709 This Meeting understanding some Friends not to go that are representatives go out of Town before the out of Town Meeting is ended, it is now advised & agreed, that before the meeting ends for the future no Representatives go out of Town before the Meeting ends without first acquainting the Meeting thereof that the Service of this Meeting may not be neglected.

1714.

1714

1714 Recommended that Friends take care that those who are desired and appointed to come up to Yearly Meetings may be Men fearing God, of good Conversations of weighty Spirits, prudent and sincere, and well acquainted with the Affairs of Truth at home.

1728

1728

1728 Advised, that the several Quarterly Meetings of the Counties and Cities do appoint at least four Friends in order that in Case a part should be disappointed by Sickness or other Accident, there may be a sufficient number to answer the Service.

1730

1730

1730 This Meeting gives Liberty, in regard of the Large-County of neps of <sup>the</sup> County of York, that for the future they may York may be allowed to enter any number as representatives not exceeding eight ~~Eight~~.

1733

1733

1733 And dear Friends our tender & brotherly advice to your several Quarterly Meetings, is that they would be carefull annually to depude such Friends



# Representatives

271

1733  
Qualifications.

to attend the Service of the Yearly Meeting as are well acquainted with the Affairs of the Church, and diligent attenders of the Meetings for Discipline in the respective Counties & places where they dwell and whose practice and conversation is answerable to the Testimony they profess to bear.

1743

1743

We advise that the several Quarterly Meetings take care to appoint for their representatives and Correspondents Men known to be faithful and Conscientious in every Branch of our Christian Testimony.

1746

1746  
attendance  
required

This Meeting observing a deficiency in divers Counties in not duly attending this Meeting, recommends to the several Quarterly Meetings the following Minutes viz: A minute of this Meeting in 1728, (See page, 270) & a minute of this Meeting in 1733 (See page 270, 271.)

1750

1750

The Advice of 1728 again earnestly recommended, See Yearly Meeting. page, 365.







... ..

...



No. 38. Concerning Salutations.  
8/15

1715

See plainness. page 205.  
1718

1718

Advice given against a declension crept  
in among us, by unbecoming gestures, in cringing and  
bowing the Body by way of Salutation, which ought  
not to be taught or countenanced.





# Schools

277

## N<sup>o</sup> 39. Concerning Schools.

1690

1690 See Children. page. 35. 36.

1695

1695 Advised that Schools, and school Masters who are faithfull Friends and well Quallified, be placed and encouraged in all Counties, Cities, Great-Towns or places where there may be need and that such Schoolmasters as much as may be some times correspond one with another for their help and improvement in such good and easie methods as are most agreeable to the Truth, and the Childrens advantage and benefit, and that Care be taken that poor Friends Children may freely partake of such Education in order to apprenticeship.

1696

1696 See Children page, 37

1697

1697 Quarterly and Monthly Meetings are desired to take care, that in all places where Schools are set up for the Teaching of Friends Children, that the Masters be diligent to improve and forward their Schollars in Learning, and keep them out of every thing that would corrupt good Manners.

1745

1745 See Meetings for Discipline, page. 162.

1751

1751 As the want of proper person amongst Friends Quallified for School Masters hath been the occasion of great Damage to the Society in many places as thereby well disposed Friends are deprived of opportunities for the education of their Children in a manner consistant with a Religious Concern for their welfare have

## Schools

1751 have been necessitated to send them to those of other persuasions, whereby the tender Minds of such Children have been in great danger of being Leavened into the Language, Customs & Habits of the World from whence it is difficult afterwards to reclaim them.

We Desire Friends would attend to this important Point and in their Monthly Meetings assist young Men of low Circumstances whose Genius & conduct may be suitable for that Office, with the Means requisite to obtain the proper Quallifications and when so Quallified afford them the necessary encouragement for their Support.









No Concerning Scriptures.

1706

1706 Advised that parents and Guardians of Children do acquaint them with, and bring them up in the frequent reading of the holy Scriptures of Truth, and also to instruct them in the great love of God through Jesus Christ, and the work of Salvation by him, and of Sanctification through his blessed Spirit.

1709

1709 We recommend it as an incumbent Duty on Friends to cause their Children to be frequent in reading the holy Scriptures, and in observing to them the Examples of such Children as in Scripture are recorded to have early learned the fear of the Lord, and hearkened to his Counsel, instructing them in the Fear & dread of y<sup>e</sup> Lord planting impressions upon their Spirits of reverence towards God, from Whom they have their daily support, shewing them they ought not to offend him, but love, serve & honour him, in whose hand all Blessings are.

1712

1712 We exhort all parents of Children to be very careful to educate, and train them up in the fear of God, and knowledge of our Lord & Saviour Jesus Christ, according to the holy Scriptures and be good Examples to them in all things.

1720

1720 Advised that no Friends suffer Romances, play Books or other vain and idle pamphlets in their houses or Families which tend to corrupt the minds of Youths, but instead thereof that they excite them to the reading of the holy Scriptures & Religious Books.

Let



1720

Let the holy Scriptures be early taught our Youth, and diligently searched & seriously read by Friends with due regard to the holy Spirit from whence they came and by which they are truly opened for they contain excellent Doctrine Rules & precepts divine and Moral, inasmuch that there will be no need to enumerate or often to repeat Laws & precepts like the Jews under a literal and lower Dispensations and Covenant than we are called into the true practice of the pure Religion given us will answer all.

1723

1723

See Children page 41

1728

1728

Advised that Ministers as well as Elders & all others in all their preaching, writing & conversing about the things of God, to keep to the form of sound Words, or scriptures Terms, and that none pretend to be wise above what is therein Written, and in such pretended Wisdom go about to explain the things of God in the words that Man's Wisdom teaches, but on the contrary, that you would at proper times and seasons, when you find your minds rightly disposed thereunto, give the Youth to understand, that the same good experience of the Work of Sanctification through the operations of the Spirit of God, which the Holy Scriptures plentifully bear Testimony to, is to be witnessed by believers in all Generations, as well as by those in the first Ages of Christianity: in which Case some Account of your own experience will be helpfull to them: and this we recommend as the most effectual means for begetting & establishing in their minds a firm Belief of the Christian Doctrine in general, as well as the necessity of the Aid & help of the Operations of the holy Spirit of God in the hearts of Men in particular contained in that most excellent Book the Bible, and for the preserving them from being defiled with the



1728 the many pernicious notions & principles contrary to such sound Doctrines which are at this time industriously dispersed in the Nations, to the Reproach of the Christian Religion in general.

1729

1729 'Tis earnestly recommended to all Friends as much as in them lies, to prevent their Children and Servants from reading Plays, Romances, and all such Books as have any tendency to lead their Minds from God, and draw their Youthfull affections to a Love of the World, and desire after the vanities and evils that are therein, and also to be very carefull to prevent their Children & Servants from reading vile and Corrupt Books (some of which have been published of late) as manifestly tend to oppose and reject the divine Authority of the holy Scriptures, and to introduce Deism, Atheism, and all Manner of infidelity & corruption both in principle & practice.

1730

1730 We did last year, and do now again earnestly recommend and beseech all Friends to admonish and exhort the Youth under their Care not to read but refrain all such Books as tend to make void the divine Authority of the holy Scriptures, and to promote prophaneness and infidelity in the Earth.

1731

1731 'Tis recommended to all Heads of Families that they do frequently call their Children & Servants together, and in a solemn religious Way cause them to read the holy Scriptures, and in so doing that they humbly wait upon God with their Families, for instruction and counsel to them respecting Christian Faith and practice.

See Children, page, 43: 44.

1732



1732

1732

We tenderly and earnestly advise & exhort all Parents and Masters of Families, that they exert themselves in the wisdom of God and in the strength of his Love to instruct their Children & Families in the Doctrine and precepts of the Christian Religion contained in the holy Scriptures: and that they excite them to a diligent reading of those sacred Writings, which plainly set forth the miraculous Conception, Birth, holy Life, wonderfull Works, Blessed Example, meritorious Death & glorious Resurrection, Ascension & Mediation of our Lord & Saviour Jesus Christ, & to educate their Children in the belief of those important Truths, as well in the belief of the inward manifestation and operation of the Spirit of God, on their own minds, that they may reap the Benefit & advantage thereof, for their own peace & everlasting Happiness, which is infinitely preferable to all other Considerations we therefore exhort in the most earnest manner, that all be very careful in this respect a neglect herein being in our Judgments, very blameworthy: and further where any Deficiency of this sort appears, we recommend to monthly and Quarterly Meetings, that they stir up those whom it may concern to their Duty therein.

1733

1733

And dear Friends, we must remind you to take all convenient Opportunities to put your Children upon reading and meditating in the holy Scriptures, which having proceeded from the Dictates of the holy Spirit do afford the most comfortable & salutary Instructions of all Writings whatever, as we have heretofore often advised, and particularly in our Epistles of the two last Years in which the Adices on this head being large and comprehensive we refer thereto.

1734



1734

1734

As there hath been heretofore so there yet remains upon this meeting a peculiar regard to and weighty concern for the Offspring of Friends, that the rising Generation might be trained up in the principles and practice of the Christian Religion in order whereunto as formerly so now again we recommend and humble waiting upon the Lord for the Manifestation of his Power & Spirit, and a diligent reading of the holy Scriptures in your Families: and that Masters of Families, Parents & Guardians of Children at proper & convenient opportunities, would stir up those under their Care to diligence herein shewing them that these sacred writings do contain the Doctrines & principles, of our Profession and explaining to them as the Lord by his good Spirit shall enable the grounds & causes inducing Friends to distinguish themselves by not conforming to the vain Fashions & corrupt Customs of the World, and that one great end of Christ's coming was to form to himself a people who by their Lives & Conversations should be patterns of that simplicity, Holiness, & Charity, w<sup>th</sup> our great Lord himself in the most perfect manner exhibited, leaving us an Example that we should follow his Steps.

By simplicity, we understand an inward Sincerity & lowly Disposition of Mind producing that plainness of Speech Habit and Manners which Christ himself and his holy Apostles recommended.

By Holiness, an internal purity and renovation of Soul wrought in us by the Grace of God, the Fruits whereof are a devout and religious behaviour Justice & inoffensiveness in all our dealings & conversation. By Charity, that Spirit of Love compassion and forbearance wherein consists the sum & Substance of Religion the Introduction of that universal peace and good will upon Earth, which is the great designe of Christianity as well as the Badge and Characteristicks of our holy Profession: by this, saith our



1734 our blessed Lord shall all men know that ye are my Disciples if ye have Love one to another, John: 13. 35

1735

1735

As it hath frequently been the Care & Concern of this Meeting, to advise parents, and all who have the Tuition & Education of Children to bring them up in the nurture & admonition of the Lord, we are still sensible that there is occasion to repeat our tender Advice and exhortation that you would lay this matter closely to heart, for 'tis certain that the preservation of your Offspring in the way of true Religion & Godliness is of much greater moment to their happiness both in this life & in that which is to come, than any thing else you are capable of doing for them: and therefore we renew our advice, that you be diligently Exercised in such a godly Care, waiting upon God, for Wisdom from him first to walk wisely & circumspectly before them your selves, and then you may with more weight & authority, in the meekness of that Wisdom instruct advise, exhort and rebuke as you shall see occasion: and we think it will contribute very much to your success in these endeavours if you put them frequently in a solemn manner upon reading the holy Scriptures especially such parts of them as relate to the great Doctrines & precepts of the Christian Religion, and then wait upon God with them, that you may become Instruments to open their understandings and in the Sense of this power & Wisdom press them closely to the practice of what they read. such an Exercise as this began early and frequently repeated we recommend as the indispensable Duty of all concerned, and the most likely means for the preservation and improvement of Children in the way of Truth, and thro' the Lord's Blessing to secure them from being prevailed upon

By



1735 by the many false deceitfull Spirits that are  
gone forth into the World tending to subvert the  
Christian Faith and a practice & Conversati-  
on agreeable thereto.

1736

1736 See Children, page, 44

1737 See Things & Governours, page, 120.

1745

1745 See Meetings for Discipline, p. 162.

11	L. 1000	1
12	L. 1000	2
13	L. 1000	3
14	L. 1000	4
15	L. 1000	5
16	L. 1000	6
17	L. 1000	7
18	L. 1000	8
19	L. 1000	9
20	L. 1000	10



## Notes Concerning Servants

1703 <sup>1703</sup> Advised, that Servants professing the Truth behave themselves in due subjection, Humility & Obedience, as becomes their profession & places: and likewise that Masters & Mistresses behave themselves towards their Servants according to the Apostles Directions. Eph. 6: 5, 6. Colos. 4: 1. 1 Tim. 6: 1, 2. Tit. 2: 9, 10. 1 Pet. 2: 18, 19, 20.

1718 <sup>1718</sup> A religious care is recommended towards our Servants that all appearance of pride, Idleness, and vain Conversation, in them may be discouraged, and that they may be exhorted to attend first Day and Week Day Meetings and have a Sense of God's Love upon their Spirits & therein partake with us of the sweetness of Truth, and in the Discharge of their Duty to God, and to their Masters & Mistresses, know peace in themselves

1737 <sup>1737</sup> See Removals & Settlements, pp. 262. 263.







1884



## No. 42. Concerning Singing.

1675

1675

It hath been and is our living sense & constant Testimony according to our experience of the divers operations of the Spirit & power of God in his Church, that there hath been and is serious Sighing, sensible Groaning, & reverent Singing, breathing forth an heavenly Sound of Joy with Grace, with the Spirit, and with understanding in Blessed unity with the Brethren, while they are in the publick Labour & Service of the Gospel, whether by preaching praying or praising God in the same power and Spirit, and all to edification & comfort in the Church of Christ, which therefore is not to be quenched or discouraged by any: but where any do or shall abuse the power of God, or are immoderate, or do either in imitation which rather Burthens than Edifies, such ought to be privately admonished, unless rebellious, for that Life, Spirit, & power is risen in the Church which doth distinguish, and hath power accordingly to Judge.





# Steeple-house Rates. — (299)

## No. 43. Concerning Steeplehouse Rates.

1688

1688

See Sufferings, page, 308.

1693

1693 Advised that our Christian Testimony  
against Steeple House Rates or Laws, be faithfully  
maintained.

1703

1703

See Tithes, page, 325.

1727

1727 See Tithes, page, 328.

1732

1732 See Tithes, page, 328.

1733

1733 See Meetings for Discipline, page 157, 158.  
and Tithes page — 329

1744

1744 See Questions, page, 248.





## Concerning the National Stock 1672 & 1676

1672  
1676

- The uses for which it is collected.
1. For the Service of Truth beyond Seas.
  2. For Books disposed of and given away to the chief Rulers & others.
  3. For Packets of post Letters with Accounts of general Sufferings, & Charges of recording and often transcribing the same.

1679

1679  
Disbursements out of the National Stock to be such only as shall be agreed and directed by the weekly Meeting for Sufferings in London, and not any other.

1682  
six  
Friends  
to keep  
the Cash.

1682  
Agreed, that for keeping the Moneys of the National Stock, at every Yearly Meeting three Friends shall be chosen, and those three of the Six that have served two preceeding Years shall Yearly be dismissed, and others to be appointed in their room as aforesaid so that the number of six may be still compleat who shall have the keeping of the Cash for the general Service intended.

1692

1692

Advised that for the future when there shall be occasion for a contribution, Friends that come up from the several Counties, bring with them an Account of the total Sum of each collection, that may be made in their respective Counties, to the next ensuing yearly Meeting after such Collection is made, that it may be compared with the Accounts here for Friends Satisfaction therein.

1698

1698

1698

Ordered that when a Collection is made in the several Counties, it may be sent up to their correspondents here to pay to the meeting for Sufferings & the Friends of the several Counties when they come up to the next Yearly Meeting to bring up the Total Sum collected and returned in their Country to the Yearly Meeting.

1732

1732

See Yearly Meeting, page, 362.









# Sufferings.

305

## N<sup>o</sup> 45 Concerning Sufferings. 1672

1672 *Advised* that Friends be exact and brief in drawing up their Sufferings in each County of the Times Names, Causes & places of both Friends & their persecutors distinctly, and send them up to the next general Meeting.

1675 *Agreed*, that certain Friends of this City be here nominated, to keep a constant Meeting about Sufferings four times in a Year with the Day and time of each Meeting here fixed & settled.

*Agreed*, that a Meeting of these City Friends under named be every Fifth Day of the Week before each Term.

Rattliff: Arthur Cook and Richard Mew  
London. John Osgood and Thomas Rudgeard  
Wheeler Street. Francis Moore and William Welch  
Westminster. Gilbert Latie and James Beech  
Peel John Elson and John Stapole  
Southwark. William Shewen and Walter Myers.

*These Friends before Named, with as many as are free of the second Days Morning Meeting of public Friends to meet together as aforesaid.*

*That at least one Friend of each County be appointed by the Quarterly Meeting thereof to be in readiness to repair to any of the said Meetings at this City at such times as their urgent Occasions or Sufferings shall require.*

*That the Agreement about the Meeting for Sufferings four times in a Year in London be read to the second Days Meeting of this City constantly before the day of Meeting appointed.*

*That*



## Sufferings

Poor Friends  
wasted by  
Suffering  
to be taken  
care of

That the respective Quarterly Meetings be encouraged in the Love of God, and Bowels of his Truth, to take care of such poor Friends as have been wasted much with Sufferings: and where any County is not sufficient to the losses among themselves, that they be mindfull of the order of Tour agreed to of recommending their Case to the adjacent Counties.

That notwithstanding the Meeting about Sufferings by the nominated Friends of this City, it is consented and agreed, that in any County meeting or place in England or Wales, where any deep Sufferings may happen the Monthly or Quarterly Meetings may both state their Case fit to be presented to those in power: and send up one two or three faithfull Friends with their Case so stated to be presented, to attend those in power therewith for relief. If they be moved therewith or find a necessity lying upon them to endeavour for relief, and this is a most likely way to be effectual in their Applications.

1676

1676

See Records, Article <sup>th</sup> 52<sup>th</sup> & the last: p, 253 & pa. 254.

1678

1678

Mention is first made of the Weekly Meeting for Sufferings in London.  
and see Records, page, 254.

1679

1679

Printing  
Agreed that if any Quarterly or Monthly Meeting has any extraordinary or grievous Sufferings in their County that they should have printed forthwith, that they give notice thereof, and send up the same to the meeting for Sufferings.

1681

1681

That when Sufferings are sent up in order for records of any particular Case, the same be writ down as well



1681 well to the Loss sustained, Goods Distrained, severe & illegal Treatment or usage, by Justices or other Persons, plain, pertinent & distinct, as to matter of Fact only without any Reflections upon the magistrates & persons & persons by whom Friends have suffered or against whom any complaint is made. That Sufferings sent up to be recorded here be first perused by the Quarterly Meeting & signed.

1682

1682 And when necessity requires, that Accounts of Sufferings be sent up with such speed, that they cannot stay to a monthly or Quarterly Meeting, that such Accounts be viewed & approved under the hands of three or four Friends at Least, to prevent mistakes, and loose uncertain Accounts of things Complained of, and that before any Accounts be entered in the Quarterly Meeting Books, the same be plainly & orderly drawn up by some knowing Friends in such Concerns.

Upon consideration of Sufferings in general it is the Advice of this Meeting, that in Cases of Difficulty, and where Friends who are Sufferers stand in need of advice in any particular Case, they send up their respective Cases to the Meeting for Sufferings in London.

1684

1684 If a Friend's Goods be seized, and a neighbour buy them from the Sheriff, and they by bill of sale be made over to him, and he leave them in the Sufferers possession, it is a Suffering Case, and to be recorded as it is in it self.

It is thought most convenient that all particular Accounts of any great & extreme Sufferings which require speedy Application or Complaint to the King &c after ~~speedy Application or complaint to the King &c~~ after carefully drawn up, and signed by the Respective Sufferers, and the Truth thereof if possible. Certified by some other faithful Friends of the same County or Neighbourhood known



# Sufferings

1684 Here: that then they be brought up by one or two understanding Sound Friends that may be capable to present them if need require having knowledge of the particular Cases and that no such Accounts be sent up unsigned.

1688

1688 <sup>monthly & quarterly Meetings to collect Sufferings</sup> And it is the desire of Friends generally that you all be carefull in your Monthly & Quarterly Meetings in collecting the Sufferings of Friends by priests and Impropriators for their Testimony against Tithes and what Goods are taken from them on that Account, with the value thereof: and also about Repairs of Steeple Houses and about not swearing: and all other Sufferings on Truths Account: and let them be carefully recorded, and Witnessed, and copies sent up to London from your Quarterly Meetings to your Correspondents: that the Sufferings of Friends for their Testimony may not be lost.

1689

1689 See Records page 255

1693

1693 The Meeting for Sufferings is intrusted with the Care of all Sufferings of Friends for Truth & Conscience sake, as at first intended.

See Records, page 255

1695

1695 See Records, page 256

1700

See Records, page 256

1700

1703



# Sufferings

309

1703

1703

And where any Friend or Friends shall be prosecuted upon any Branch of the Truth, that such Labour in a sense of the weight of their Testimony with the prosecutor, before or at the beginning of his prosecution, that so if possible the Witness of God in him may be reached, and he convinced that their refusal to comply, proceeds not from obstinacy, or self Interest but from a godly Care to preserve a conscience void of offence towards God & Man.

1746

1746

This Meeting desires, that for the future an Account of all proceedings in such Suffering Cases as comes under the Care of the Meeting for Sufferings, and the Issue thereof, may be duly brought or sent to that Meeting in writing specifying the places or Counties where such Sufferers dwell with the several proceedings in the said Cases in order to be duly recorded.

1781.

Concluded and agreed at a yearly meeting held at Smithfield for Rhode Island.

1781

concerning  
taxes

"The Testimony of many Friends in the nonpayment of Taxes not whereof goes for the support of war, coming under the consideration of this meeting. — It is the sense & judgment that the several Monthly meetings collect accounts of the sufferings of our brethren, in account of said Testimony & send them up to the meeting for sufferings their to be recorded after due instant

# Sufferings

inspection, in Friends Book of Suffering, as our brethren testimony for the truth, against the appropriation of any part thereof to the purposes of war:— and it is recommended to friends that lab-  
 ouring to be preserved unbiased herein as to powers  
 which are, or may be, they keep an eye single to  
 the testimony of Truth against war & fighting.









## Meeting for Sufferings

N<sup>o</sup> Concerning the Meeting for Sufferings  
1774.Concluded & agreed at a yearly held for  
Rhode-Island.

1774

Sufferings  
on account  
of our ge-  
neral tes-  
timony

This meeting being under a weighty concern for friends who are or may be under sufferings and difficulties, from the powers of this world, on account of our religious Testimony, do appoint our friends a Committee, who are desired to take cognizance of all grievances arising amongst us, wherein any friend or friends may be affected, either in person, property, or in regard to our Christian testimony aforesaid, and to advise, counsel & assist as best wisdom may direct: and they are desired to meet once a month or oftener if need be: - that seven of said Committee constitute a meeting, which may transact the business thereof, and that any aggrieved friend or friends, may apply to them either in a collective or separate capacity, as the circumstances of the case <sup>may</sup> require, and that said Committee in a meeting capacity draw on the Treasurer of the meeting for the monies that shall be necessary for the purposes aforesaid, who is ordered to pay the same. And that this Committee view & judge of Manuscripts proposed to be printed, & correspond with the meeting for sufferings at Philadelphia or elsewhere.





## 46. Concerning Tale-bearing & Backbiting.

1689 *Advised* 1689 to watch against and shut out all Occasions of Offences, Contentions and divisions, and in the Name of the Lord to stop and judge down all Whisperings, Talebearings Backbitings and evil speaking tending thereunto, and to be kind & tender hearted one to another and earnestly Labour & press for universal Love, Union & peace in all the Churches of Christ.

1692 *Advised* 1692 to be carefull and watchfull against all Whisperings, Backbitings & Tale carrying to the defaming Friends or others, and put a speedy stop thereto, and pass righteous Judgment upon all Whisperers & Backbiters, who appear Instruments of Division & Offences, contrary to that peaceable Truth & Gospel we profess, and where any have received Offence against any other, first to speak privately to the party concerned, and endeavour reconciliation between themselves, and not whisper or aggravate Matters against them behind their Backs, to the making parties, and by Breach Wider.

1695 *Let* 1695 those just and ancient Commands of God be observed Lev. 19. 16. Thou shalt not go up and down as a Tale-bearer among thy people, and Exod. 23. 1. Thou shalt not raise a false Report, and Psalm. 15. 3. He that backbiteth not with his Tongue nor doth evil to his Neighbour, nor taketh up a Reproach against his Neighbour &c, tis only such innocent ones that shall abide in Lords Tabernacle and dwell in his holy Hill, wherefore in the fear of the Lord stand against all Whisperers, Backbiters, Tale-bearers Defamers & Slanderers, and against all Whisperings Backbitings.



## Tale bearing &amp; Backbiting

1695 Backbitings, Tale bearing, Reproaching & Slandering, and put a speedy stop thereto as much as in you lies: for such Works of Darknes & Envy tend to Division & Discord, and the Righteous Law of God goes against both the Authors, Fomenters, Receivers & Encouragers thereof. See Prov. 11. 13 & 18. & 20 & 19 & 26. 20, 22, & also Cor. 12. 20.

1719

1719 The former advice of 1695, repeated, with this addition, and therefore if you hear a Report of a Friend be carefull not to report it again, but go to the person of whom the Report is, and enquire if it be true or not, and if it be true, then deal with such a person for it according to the Doctrine of Christ Matt. 18. But if false, then endeavour as much as in you lies to stop such Reports; for as Solomon says a good Name is rather to be chosen than great Riches Prov. 22. 1.

1721

1721, The advices of 1695 &amp; 1719, repeated.

1725

1725: The former advices again repeated.

1727

1727 The same again Recommended.

1733

1733

We think proper to exhort Friends everywhere to avoid all Whisperings, Backbitings, and tale-bearings tending to blemish the Reputation of any, or to sow Discord, and create evil Surmisings one of another: A practice which ought to be heartily discouraged as being of a most pernicious Consequence to Society; 'tis therefore recommended, that when any shall hear a Report of such a Nature they take an opportunity to acquaint the person concerned thereof, before they again report, or be Instrumental to spread the same and in order to stop the Mouths of all Talebearers & Slanders, Friends would do well to manifest their aversion to such a practice. The North Wind saith Solomon driveth away Rain, so doth an angry Countenance a Backbiting Tongue, Prov. 25. 23.

See



# Tale bearing & Backbitings

357

See Defamation pages 81. 82.

1744

1744

Whereas it may so happen that some Friends may suffer much in their reputation & Character, by a detracting Spirit which too much prevails among some bearing our Name, who shelter themselves under a pretence that they say no more than they have heard from others: But will not discover who they are: wherefore to prevent this Evil of reporting and Tale bearing to the prejudice of others, it is agreed, that such Reporters or Talebearers shall either discover the Authors, or be dealt with & testified against as Authors thereof.











## Tithes

## = 47 = Concerning Tithes

1675

1675

our ancient  
Testimony  
to be  
upheld

Advised, that our ancient Testimony against Tithes which we have born from the beginning, and for which many have deeply suffered, some not only the spoiling of their Goods but Imprisonment even unto Death, be carefully <sup>& punctually</sup> upheld and countenanced in the power of God, and that all those that oppose, slight or neglect that Testimony be looked upon, and dealt withal as unfaithfull to the ancient and universal Testimony of Truth, according to Gospel order established among us.

offenders  
to be  
dealt with

That Truths Testimony against Tithes and Friends innocency in Suffering be kept to, and tho' innocent Endeavours may be used to save them from being taken away, yet that Friends be carefull of violent Struggling to detain them, when the adversary comes to take them by force.

Innocency  
in Suffering  
to be  
kept to  
see 1689  
p 323.

1676

1676

That Tithes taken away by force be recorded as a Suffering for Truth.

No Consent

That all Friends have a Care that they neither openly nor secretly consent to the taking away of their Tithes nor to the payment of them by any one whatsoever on their behalf, but keep faithfull to their Testimony.

1678

1678

of Times  
in kind

And because some have not kept an Account of the Tithes in kind that have been taken from them as if that were no Suffering because the priests and Impropriators pretend due, we find ourselves engaged in Spirit to desire you to reckon that of Tithe amongst the other Sufferings that you send up



## Tithes

1678 up: and for the time to come to take the same Care of recording all taken away upon that Account in your Book of Sufferings

See Records. page 254

1682

1682 It is the sense of this Meeting, that the Executors who have a Testimony for Truth, have a Testimony against the paying of the Tithes pretended to be due from the Testator, and ought to bear his Testimony against payment thereof.

1687

1687 We do in the Love of God and his blessed Truth and Testimony of Jesus Christ, recommend to your tender and Christian Care, that Friends in the several Counties do sincerely keep to their ancient and Christian Testimony against that old and great oppression of Tithes for which many faithfull Friends & Servants of Christ have deeply suffered some till Death in Jails) and several still do suffer, whereby it appears, that the priests, as they were the first, so they are like to be the last persecutors for Conscience sake: and also we request it of you carefully to collect and make return of all Friends Sufferings for Tithes, as well as other Sufferings, whether by imprisonments, or by taking away Goods, as Corn, Cattle, or other Goods, either by or without Law, both which are Sufferings, and ought to be accounted of and entered upon record, in behalf of all faithfull Friends who stand clear in their Testimony for Truth.

Tithes  
taken away  
with or  
without  
Law to  
be recorded.

1689



# Tithes.

## 1689

1689  
not to  
strive w<sup>th</sup>  
the Spoilers

We desire your Testimony against Tithes may be kept up in the peaceable Spirit of Christ, as becomes true Christians, rather suffering patiently in the spoiling of your Goods than any way to strive to struggle with the Spoilers, to retain them by Force; but singly commit your Cause to the Lord, who will plead it and judge righteously.

## 1690

1690

That all Friends be faithfull in their Testimony against Tithes of all sorts, knowing that since they were ended by Christ, they were imposed and originally sprung from that antichristian Root and popish usurpation in Church and State; and that Friends would tenderly consider that where any decline their Testimony, or are negligent in this weighty Case they do thereby increase the weight and Burthen of sufferings upon them that are faithfull, and strengthen the hands of their Adversaries.

## 1691

1691

That the Christian Testimony against Tithes may be duly kept up, and such as are unfaithfull therein <sup>be</sup> diligently exhorted to obedience & faithfulness to Christ Jesus that they may not strengthen the Persecutors hands, increase others sufferings nor make void Truths Testimony therein which so many have offered up and laid down their Lives for.

## 1692

1692

That Friends be carefull and diligent to keep up their ancient Christian Testimony against the Oppression of Tithes; for the more faithfull and unanimous Friends are therein, we are really perswaded the Lord will the sooner make way for our ease and deliverance from that Burthen.

## 1693



# Sithes

1693

1693 *Advised*, that our Christian Testimony against the grand oppression and antichristian <sup>faithfully</sup> ~~system~~ of Sithes. Worn and greatly suffered for be <sup>faithfully</sup> maintained in all respects.

1696

1696 With respect to a proposal about a Farm and agreeing to pay so much the more to be exempted from Sithes: it's left to the several Monthly & Quarterly Meetings to advise Friends to be careful that nothing be done that tends to weaken our Testimony against Sithes by any: and that such be admonished as they see cause.

1698

1698 *Advised*, that our ancient Christian Testimony against Sithes be not avoided or shunned by any indirect ways or Courses with Landlords or otherwise: and that Friends be careful to keep a true Record of the value of what is taken from them on that account, in the field or otherwise whether it exceeds the Demand or not, with the respective Date of each Suffering: and the time, when any Suit is commenced

1701

1701 Our Testimony against Sithes and forced Maintenance in this Gospel Day, being received from Christ our Head & high Priest, is not of our own making or imposing not from the Tradition of Men, but what we have from him by whose divine power we are raised up to be a people, and by which we have been preserved to this Day: knowing that His Ministry & Gospel are free according to his own express Command, freely ye have received freely give.

1703



# Tithes

1703

1703

Stoppages

This Meeting taking Notice as well from the Accounts of Sufferings Brought in from divers Counties as Relations by several Friends now present, that in many Places Advantages are taken upon Friends by making Stoppages upon them in they way of Trade, or by Debtors or otherwise or by Kindred or Neighbours, laying down the Money for Tithes, or Church Rates, so called, and that this way of proceeding grows and increases upon Friends in many places.

It is therefore recommended, as the sense and Advice of this Meeting to the several Quarterly & Monthly Meetings, to stir up Friends in their respective Meetings to Deal and faithfulness in this respect that they may not consent to or connive at, such payments, Stoppages or Discountings on such Accounts, but to deal plainly and earnestly with their relations or Neighbours who shall so pay or others who shall so stop or Discount, and not discharge the debt by crossing their Books, if Tradesmen or otherwise, but keep the Debt still in demand, and be as wary and carefull as they can for the future, to keep such persons as much as in them lies out of a Capacity of stopping upon them, that they may thereby discourage all such ways of proceeding which tend to weaken or lessen their Testimony and not to bring in such stoppages as Sufferings in as much as they do not discharge the Debt, which if they should do they would thereby allow the stoppage and so let fall their Testimony.

impropriate  
Tithes

This Meeting declares it is their sense & Judgment that no Friend in Truth can either pay or receive impropriate Tithes being inconsistent with our Christian Testimony; and its desired Friends of the several Counties may be advised thereof.

1706



# Tithes

1706

1706 This Meeting understanding that notwithstanding the judgment and advice formerly and frequently given by this meeting against the payment of Tithes and more particularly in the Year 1703 against the paying or receiving of Tithes, by any that profess the holy Truth with us; there are some persons who go under our Name do yet continue not only to pay them, but some few also here and there having Estates in impropriate Tithes (which are the same in the nature, Ground & Root with the Tithes paid to the Priest) do not forbear as yet to receive them to the great dishonour of our holy profession, and grief of faithful Friends (the others have conscientiously and very honourably given up and released them) this Meeting thereupon doth now again signify, as the unanimous sense and Judgment of faithful Friends, that <sup>for</sup> any among us in this <sup>Gospel</sup> Day to pay or receive Tithes (which are a part of the ceremonial Law belongs to the Levitical priesthood, and were abrogated, and taken away by the coming, and death of our Lord Jesus Christ on the Cross) doth directly oppose, and tend to overthrow the ancient Christian Testimony of Truth against Tithes which hath been born by friends from the beginning of our Day, not only by word and Doctrine but by deep sufferings, and sealed even with the Blood of some of our dear & faithful Brethren who have cheerfully laid down their Lives by long and hard imprisonments in confirmation of that their conscientious Testimony.

In the sense hereof, this meeting doth earnestly recommend to the several Quarterly & Monthly Meetings every where of Friends: that they be careful and diligent to make general observations how Friends do answer and bear up that Testimony against Tithes in their practice: and if they shall find



# Tithes

1706 find any going under our Name, that do either pay or receive Tithes, that they use their best and utmost endeavours in the Spirit and order of the Gospel, and in the exercise of great tenderness and brotherly kindness, to inform convince exhort, admonish and reprove, as they see cause, all such without respect of persons, in order to gain and bring them to the acknowledgement and obedience of the Truth in that particular.

And if after such tender and gentle dealing with them any such shall continue in their unfaithfulness and opposition to the principle and Christian practice of Friends in that Case, that then the Monthly or Quarterly Meeting unto which such person shall be reputed to belong, having exercised Christian patience and forbearance towards such and finding themselves clear in the sight of God, do manifest and declare that such for their unfaithfulness and opposition to that our Christian Testimony are unworthy to be admitted to the Meetings for Business amongst Friends or to be received to join in the collections made by Friends for the Service of the Church of Christ: and if after that, such persons shall persist in such their unfaithfulness and opposition, that then the monthly or Quarterly Meeting proceed further in the Lord's power to give judgment for the clearing of Truth and Friends as in the holy Counsel and wisdom of God, they shall be directed and guided therein.

1724

1724

Former advice again Recommended.

1725

1725

It is advised and earnestly recommended, that in as much as it doth appear there is in some places a shortness and deficiency in bearing a faithful Testimony against Tithes, that in any Monthly Meeting which have such Members after a deliberate dealing with them in the Wisdom of Truth, and the meek Spirit of the Gospel for their help and information, Friends



1725 Friends have recourse for their further proceedings to the Yearly Meetings minute 1706.

1727

1727 It doth appear to this Meeting that Friends in divers places are under difficulty on account of Stoppiages made in respect to demands for small Tithes and Church Rates so called, and for illegal seizures without Warrants on such Accounts, which are in some places made; whereby we apprehend a voluntary compliance is implied, which doth tend to weaken and lay waste our Testimony; and therefore this Meeting doth tenderly renew the caution & advice thereupon given in a minute in the year 1703. whereunto we refer

1730

1730 Friends are heartily desired and intreated to read and disperse Anthony persons great Case of Tithes, hoping it may have this good effect if read with a single Eye to manifest the inconsistency of Tithes with the Gospel Dispensation.

1731

1731 Former Advices of this Meeting again recommended and particularly that in 1706.

1732

1732 Recommended to the several Quarterly and monthly Meetings, tenderly to advise & exhort Friends to be carefull in bearing a faithful Testimony against the Antichristian Yoke of Tithes, priests maintenance, and Church Rates so called the want whereof in some places hath tended to the uneasiness and sorrow of many Brethren, and added to the sufferings of such as have stood faithful in this our ancient and Christian Testimony.

1733



1733

1733

This Meeting observing a remissness in some places in respect to our Testimony against that antichristian Yoke of Tithes, an earnest concern & zeal has been on the minds of Friends, that all might be excited and stirred up to faithfulness therein: in order whereunto, we think necessary to put you in mind, that the Zeal of our Friends, who have abode faithful in their Testimony against paying Tithes Steeple-house Rates, and Priests maintenance has greatly tended to the opening the Eyes of many not only in this but also in other Countries.

We received last Year an account from New England where our Friends formerly underwent grievous sufferings, that as Law is made exempting them from paying either to the maintenance of the established Ministers or the repairing of their worship Houses: and it is our belief that if all Friends here had been faithful in their Testimony against Tithes the time of our deliverance from that oppression under which this Nation yet groans would have been nearer at hand. we do therefore earnestly exhort to a close coming up in that, and every other Branch of our Testimony, tending to the promotion of Gospel Liberty: which it has been our concern ever since we were a people thro' manifold sufferings to maintain, and if any weakness or unfaithfulness shall appear among the professors of Truth, we hope faithful Friends and Brethren will not be wanting to administer help and admonition in the Love and Counsel of God, as they shall see occasion for the restoring and strengthening of such according to the advice given by the Apostle, Gal. 6. 1. Brethren if a man be overtaken in a fault ye which are Spiritual restore such an one in the Spirit of Meekness.

See Meeting for Discipline, pae '157.

1734



## Tithes

1731

1734

And dear Friends for the sake of those particular persons in some places who yet continue remiss in maintaining their Testimony against the Antichristian Yoke of Tithes, we think necessary to repeat the advice given last Year, that Friends as they shall see Occasion in the Wisdom of God would admonish such and in a Spirit of Love and meekness endeavour to help and strengthen them, and ~~excite them~~ & stir them up to faithfulness in that Branch of our ancient Testimony.

1736

1735

And dear Friends as it hath been the concern of this Meeting frequently to advise, that Friends should stand faithful in their Testimony against that antichristian Yoke of Tithes, so we do now renew our advice in that respect.

And we earnestly intreat the faithful among you, to take all suitable opportunities of endeavouring to demonstrate to such as are weak & unfaithful the importance of our Testimony against receiving or paying Tithes, the natural tendency whereof is to obtain that Liberty which the purest Ages of Christianity enjoyed, that is a liberty for any person moved by the holy Spirit of God to preach the doctrine of the Glorious Gospel of our Lord & Saviour Jesus Christ freely, and of which they were not deprived till such time as great Corruptions of Doctrine and practice were found amongst the professors of Christianity, and the civil powers were prevailed upon to meddle with the Consciences of the people which of Right are to be subjected to God only.

We cannot therefore but bless the Lord from an experimental witnessing of the Comfort & spiritual advantage which arises from such a Liberty, that he was pleased to raise up our worthy Elders and give them a Testimony against that antichristian yoke making



## Tithes.

1735 making them willing in this and other Nations to suffer for that Testimony thereby shewing to the World what the Love of Christ is able to do for we believe nothing short of that. Love could have enabled them to suffer the spoil of their Goods, and the long imprisonments of their Bodies, even to Deaths, as some of them did for their Conscientious Refusal to pay Tithes: and we have reason to believe that if all among us had followed their Example by abiding faithfull in this our Christian Testimony we might before this time have been in a great measure relieved from under that oppression.

1736

1736

And dear Friends, as we have <sup>ever</sup> since we were a people maintained our Christian Testimony against Tithes, and forced maintenance of Ministers, as contrary to the nature of the Gospel Dispensation, we cannot but repeat our earnest exhortation that friends every where stand fast in the Liberty wherewith Christ hath made them free, and beware of Burthening their own Consciences by a mean submission to an Antichristian Yoke of Bondage thro' fear of Suffering: a meek & quiet Spirit under Temporal Inconveniencies for the sake of our Christian Testimony is one of the best proofs of our sincerity therein, and may be a means of effectually recommending us to the Compassion of those whom God has placed in authority over us to whose hands he has committed the power of giving us relief and from whom it becomes us to seek it with humility and patience.

1737



## Tithes

1737

1737 This Meeting being informed that Friends in several Parts of this Nation are in the Practice of calling one their Members to bring in an Account of their Sufferings for their Testimony against that anti-christian Yoke of Tithes &c. and to enquire whether such as bring in no account do stand clear in their Testimony: which having had a good effect, it's therefore recommended that Friends thro' the Nation fall into <sup>the</sup> said practice, and if they find any deficient and persist in the same, that such Friends be dealt with pursuant to the directions, and former advice of this Meeting, and particularly in 1733, and those recommended therein.

p 329 & 330  
Apr 1737

You have been often reminded of the importance of our ancient Testimony against the anti-christian Yoke of Tithes, and as you are convinced in your Conscience of their inconsistency with the nature of the Gospel Dispensation, it's certainly your necessary Duty to act agreeable to such Convictions: and if Sufferings for your Testimony shall be the consequence of your Obedience therein, will become you, after the Example of the primitive Christians, cheerfully to submit and to take joyfully the spoiling of your Goods, that so you may preserve a Conscience void of offence towards God and at the same time by your Christian meekness and innocent Deportment, give reasonable evidence of your sincerity to Men.

See Trading, page 24.

1738



1738

1738

We therefore tenderly exhort all who profess the Truth, to watchfulness, and Zeal, that this Branch of our Christian Testimony be not laid waste by connivance or private agreement with Priests or Impropriators, but that all abide patient under that Testimony which the Lord hath called us to bear not doubting but that the gradual progress of real Christianity will at length operate to the removal of our Yoke so directly contrary to the Liberty where-with Christ hath made us free.

1742

1742

See Questions, page, 247.

1744

1744

See Questions, page, 248.

1750

1750

Whereas it appears that the method of taking the Priests Demands, without Warrant, or due from of Law prevails more in some places than heretofore, Friends are therefore intreated to be as much upon their guard, as possible, against the introduction of any practices that may tend to encourage unfaithfulness or collusion, or Disposition altogether unbecoming the Nobility of Truth, and inconsistent with the uprightness it requires.

334















No. 48. Concerning Tomb-Stones.  
1717

1717

This Meeting being informed that Friends in some Places have gone into the vain & empty Custom of erecting Monuments over the dead Bodies of Friends, by Stones, Inscriptions, Tomb-stones &c, and being every desirous Friends should keep a commendable plainness and simplicity in this as well as other respects, it's therefore the Advice of this Meeting, that all such Monuments as are already in being over dead Bodies of Friends should be removed, as much as may be with discretion and conveniency: and that none be any where made or set up by over the dead Bodies of Friends or others in Friends Burying places for time to come. —





## No. 49. Concerning Trading.

1675

<sup>1675</sup>  
 It is advised that none Trade beyond their ability, nor stretch beyond their Compass, and that they use few Words in Dealings, and keep their Words in all things, lest they bring through their forwardness, Dishonour to the precious Truth of God.

1688

1688

Advice not to launch forth into Trade & worldly Business beyond what they can manage honourably, and with Reputation among the Sons of Men: and so that they may keep their Words with all Men: and that their Yea may prove Yea indeed, and their Nay may be Nay indeed, for whatever is otherwise cometh of the Evil one: and such who make themselves guilty by thus dishonouring God, and the holy profession of his Name and Truth, such are for Judgment by the Truth and the Judgment of Truth ought to be set over them that the Truth, and those that abide and walk in it may be clear of their Iniquities.

1692.

1692

It is advised and earnestly desired that the payment of just debts be not delayed by any professing Truths, beyond the time promised and agreed upon nor Occasion given for complaint to those they deal with by their backwardness of payment where no time is limited: nor any to overcharge themselves with too much Trading & Commerce beyond their Capacities to discharge a good Conscience towards all Men: and that all Friends concerned be very careful not to contract extravagant Debts to the endangering the wronging others, and their Families, which some have done to the grieving the hearts of the upright: nor to break their promises.

Contracts



# Trading.

1692 Contracts or Agreements in their buying or selling or in any other Lawfull Affairs to the injuring themselves or others: occasioning strife contention, and reproach to the Truth & Friends.

And it is advised that all Friends that are entering into Trade, or that are in Trade, and have not Stock sufficient of their own to answer the Trade they aim at be very cautious of running themselves into Debts without advising with some of their ancient & experienced Friends among whom they live, & more especially such Trading as hath it's Dependence on sea adventures.

1697 See Plainness. p. 203.

1702 We earnestly desire that all professing the Blessed Truth with us, be very carefull to keep their Words & Promises by paying their just Debts without unreasonable Delay, and do justice to all Men, for Righteousness sake: and to prevent the great Reproach & Scandal of defrauding any persons by breaking in their Debts, or otherwise injuring any.

1703 Advised that all Friends be weighty and Circumspect in their Conduct and management of their outward Affairs, and carefull to keep within Compass of their own Substance, to prevent failures and Breaches.

1708 To prevent the great scandal and Reproach which any professing Truth may bring on it, by breaking in other Men's Debts, we remind you to exercise as Godly care therein as much as in you lies, giving timely caution to any such as either break their Promises or delay the payment of their just Debts, or otherwise render themselves suspected.

1709



1709

1709

Truth leads all who faithfully follow it to do right and justice to all, and not defraud or wrong any in any way of commerce, Trade, Trust or Dealing, much less to put any abuse upon the Government, &c.

See Kings & Governours, page, 117, 118.  
Also the Advice in 1703 again recommends.

1710

1710

Consider the great suffering that hath been brought upon Truths and faithfull Friends, by divers professing Truths among us, breaking their Words, promises and obligations to the great injury of others, by not paying their just Debts in due time and the sad consequences thereof and reproaches brought thereby.

Notwithstanding our great care and many Warnings given for prevention thereof, which being too many to recite here, We refer you to the Advice formerly given by our Ancient Friend and Brother, G. F. to shopkeepers, Merchants Factors or any other Friends: which this Meeting hath thought proper to recommend unto you in print, and advise, that it be read in your Quarterly and Monthly Meetings as you may see occasion, at least once a Year.

1720

1720

Let all promises and obligations for payment of just Debts be truly kept and performed.

1724

1724

It is earnestly desired, that all Friends every where be very carefull to avoid all inordinate pursuit after the things of this World, by such Ways and means as depend too much on the uncertain probabilities of Hazardous enterprises, but rather Labour to content themselves with such a plain way and manner of Living as is most agreeable to the self denying principle of Truth which we profess, and which is most conducive to that Tranquillity



## Trading

v/24 Tranquility of mind that is requisite to a religious conduct through this troublesome World. and the advice in v/10 repeated.

v/25

v/27 'Tis earnestly desired that all Friends be very careful not to run into larger Trading & Business than their Capacities and abilities can well answer: and that they may frequently inspect their Circumstances, & do not live at an expence beyond them: and if thro' adverse accidents any should fail in paying their just Debts, and should after his or her composition with his or her Creditors, be so far blessed, and prospered in their Affairs, as to be capable of paying their deficiencies, it is the earnest Desire and Advice of this Meeting that they do not omit the same, it being agreeable to the Command of the Gospel, and common Justice among Men.

See Negroes, page, 189.

v/28

v/28 For as much as repeated occasion hath been given of great grief and affliction to Friends, which hath caused the way of Truth to be evil spoken of, by the Launching out of Divers under our Profession, too far into the Affairs of this World, to their own hurt, the reproach of the Society, and wronging other persons of their just properties: we recommend great Care and circumspection to all Friends in this respect, and in particular do refer to the Advices in the Yearly Epistles v/10 & v/24 & last Year: and do desire Friends at their several Monthly Meetings, to use their utmost endeavours, by a Watchfull Eye to prevent, as much as in them lies, all such unjust practices & Scandals.

v/29



1729

N/29

Notwithstanding many are the good and whole-  
some Advices, which in former Years have been recom-  
mended from this Meeting, exhorting to faithfulness &  
perseverance in all Godliness and Honesty, yet to our  
grief we find there are fresh instances of great short-  
ness in coming up in the practice shew of particu-  
larly by some injurious defrauding their Creditors of their  
just Debts, and not performing their Word and promise  
which have occasioned grievous Complaints, wherefore  
we desire and intreat when any such occasion of re-  
proach shall be that whatsoever Monthly Meeting within  
the Compass whereof it may happen they do not fail  
speedily to set righteous Judgment on the Head of the  
Transgressor

1730

N/30

See Meetings for Discipline, page, 155.

1731

N/31

See Conversation, page, 54.

N/32.

1732

We find it our Duty to remind our respective  
Members of the remarkable uprightness and honesty of  
our Friends in the beginning, in their Commerce and  
Converse, how exact were they in performing their Words  
and promises, without evasive Excuses and insincere dial-  
ings! How carefull not to involve themselves in Business  
which they understood not, nor had stocks of their own  
to manage! How circumspect not to contract greater  
Debts than they were able to pay in due time. which  
brought great credit and reputation to our religious Society  
but with sorrow we observe that contrary to their Exam-  
ple, and the repeated advices formerly given by this Meet-  
ing particularly in the Years, 1729, & 1731. against an  
inordinate pursuit after Riches, too many have  
launched into Trade and Business above their  
Stocks



# Trading

1732 Stocks and Capacities by which unjustifiable proceedings, and high living they have involved themselves and Families in Trouble and Ruin, and brought considerable loss upon others, to the great Reproach of our holy professions.

We therefore recommend to Friends in their respective Quarterly and Monthly Meetings to have a watchfull Eye over all their Members, and where they observe any deficient in discharging their Contracts and just Debts in due times, so as to give reasonable suspicion of weakness or negligence, that Friends do earnestly advise them to a suitable care and necessary inspection into their Circumstances in order that they may be helped, and if any proceed contrary to such Advice, and by their failure bring open scandal & Reproach on the Society, that then ~~the~~ Friends justifiably may and ought to testify against such offenders.

1735

1735 Again dear Friends, we esteem it our Duty to renew our former Advice, that Friends every where take diligent care to prevent as much as possible persons professing with us defrauding their Creditors of their just dues to the great scandal & reproach of our holy Religion by timely admonishing and cautioning all those of our Society, who by delays in payment, & breaking their Words and promises, give reasonable cause of suspicion that their Circumstances are desperate advising all such to inspect their Accounts and give up their Effects in time in order to make the best they can to their Creditors which will most conduce to their own Peace, and Credit & Reputation of our Christian Society: but if any thro' Ambition or desire of Grandeur, in the World, shall reduce themselves to involvency after having been thus plainly cautioned and dealt with, according to the nature of the Offence and pursuant to the advices of this

meeting



# Trading

347

1735

Meeting in the Years 1728, and 1732, to which we refer you, then the Society will justly be clear of reproach arising from the misconduct of such a case of this nature we earnestly recommend, not only to monthly & Quarterly Meetings, but also that Friends in their private Capacity watch over, advise and caution one another when sever they observe any real occasion for it.

1737

1737

As some reproach and scandal have been brought up<sup>on</sup> our religious Society, by some bearing our name falling short of Answering their just Debts, and others professing with us being unfaithfull in bearing a Testimony against the Antichristian Yoke of Tyranny notwithstanding the several wholesome advices given from this meeting to the contrary we declare it to be the sense and Judgment of this Meeting, that no person who shall fail as aforesaid ought to be admitted to act in Meetings for Business or join with Friends in collecting for the poor and the service of the Church untill they have made satisfaction to the Monthly Meeting they belong to, and done what is in their power, to take off the reproach they have by their imprudent conduct brought on our Christian principle.  
See Conversation, page, 57, 58.

1738

See Conversation, page, 58.

1738

1870









# N<sup>o</sup> Concerning testimonys

1760

Agreed upon at the yearly-meetg at Newport on Rhoddy-Island.

It is recommended to the Quarterly and

1760  
concerning  
memorials

Monthly meetings to appoint suitable friends to collect Memorials of the living services and dying sayings of Ministers, Elders & other Friends whose lives were remarkable for piety & faithfulness; with the time of their birth & death as near as may be, with a distinction between ministers, Elders & others, and when they lived, and that such collections, be inspected by each Quarterly and Monthly meeting, and from thence send them up to this meeting to be recorded.





No. 50. Concerning Wills.

1691 <sup>1691</sup> Advised that Care be taken in each Monthly Meeting that Friends who have Estates to dispose of by Will or otherwise, be particularly advised to make their Wills or settle their Estates in due time to prevent the Inconveniences, Loss and Trouble that may follow upon their Relations & Friends, and injury to the poor thro' their dying intestate. Delays and Omissions in this Case having been very prejudicial in divers respects.

1695 <sup>1695</sup> The above repeated with this Addition Making such Wills in due time will shorten no Man's Days; but the omission or Delay thereof has proved very pernicious to many & injurious to Truth.

1696 <sup>1696</sup> See Foot, page, 285.

1703 <sup>1703</sup> Knowing how quickly many are removed by Death it is weightily recommended, that all Friends in time of Health, and strength of Judgment take Care firmly to make their Wills, and to dispose of their Substance, as in justice and Wisdom may be agreeable to their Satisfaction.

1705 <sup>1705</sup> The Advice in 1703 repeated.

1706 <sup>1706</sup> See Orphans pages 195.

1710

1710 This Meeting recommends the visiting the Sick amongst Friends timely, and see that they make their Wills in due Time.

1713

1713

Desired that Friends will take Care that none do unadvisedly bring themselves or others into sufferings by undertaking Trusts or Executorships where they cannot legally discharge that Trust.

1715

1715

Desired that Trustees and Executors concerned in Wills and Settlements do take special Care that they faithfully discharge their respective Trusts according to the intent of the Donors & Testators; And that all Charitable Gifts, Legacies, Bequests and Settlements of Estates by will or deed intended and given for the use of the Poor, the Aged, the Impotent, or putting poor Friends Children to Education or Apprenticeships may not be Appropriated or Converted to any other uses than such as the Donors & Testators have directed and enjoined them by legal Settlement, Will or Testament.



# Yearly Meeting

357

## No. 51. Concerning the Yearly Meeting 1672

1672

Yearly Meeting  
constituted

Agreed, that one or two of each County, that are concerned in the publick Service of the Truth in each respective County do come up to this Meeting once a Year to be chosen or elected by the Quarterly Meetings of each County respectively for that purpose.

And the publick Labourers to be here in the same Week on the second day at even at farthest.

to be held  
at London  
in the  
Whitsun  
Week

Representatives to  
be chosen

That for the better ordering, managing & Regulating of the publick Affairs of Friends relating to the Truth and the Service thereof, there be a general Meeting of Friends held at London once a Year in the Week called Whitsun Week to consist of six Friends for the City of London.

Three for the City of Bristol

Two for the Town of Colchester

One or two from each County in England & Wales, to be chosen at their respective Quarterly Meetings next preceeding the said Week called Whitsun Week, and to be in London on the second Day of that Week.

As many Friends that Labour in the Truth, as have freedom thereunto may be present at the said Meeting.

All others except such as are nominated by the Quarterly Meetings, are desired to forbear coming to the said general Meeting, except such Friends as they when met together shall see meet to admit.

The said Yearly Meeting of Representatives to continue till further order.

1673

1673

meeting of  
Representatives  
also chosen  
remains

Agreed, that the general Meeting consisting of two Friends from each Quarterly Meeting about publick Business appointed the 29<sup>th</sup> of the third Month 1672 till further



## Yearly Meeting

1673

further order, be discontinued till Friends in God's Wisdom shall see further Occasion.

That the general Meeting of Friends who labour in the Works of the Ministry do continue as formerly appointed

1677

1677

Revised

Then agreed, that the Yearly Meeting of one or two from each County as formerly agreed upon at a general meeting in London upon the 29<sup>th</sup> of the third Month 1672, appointed yearly to meet about the publick affairs of Friends, some time in the Week called Whit Sun Week untill further order, and afterwards agreed to be discontinued from the 25<sup>th</sup> of the third Month 1673, till Friends in God's Wisdom should see further occasion for it, be again revived and begun this time twelve Months and then Friends to advise about the Continuance thereof as they in God's Counsel shall see Occasion.

1678

1678

Sufferings  
Information  
&  
Assistancethe end &  
intent of  
the meeting

It is the desire of this Meeting, that you would nominate on or two Friends to come up the next Year at the usual time for the Service of Truth, and that they bring with them the total of the Sufferings of the foregoing Year not before sent up and whatsoever else you desire information or assistance in let it be writ and subscribed by some of your Meeting in the Name of the Rest; the end of this Meeting not being limited to the case of Sufferings but intended for the more general Service of the Truth & Body of Friends, in all those things wherein we may be capable to serve one another in Love.

1679

1679

Agreed that Friends be desired in their Quarterly Meetings respectively to take care to appoint some faithful Friend or Friends to attend this Meeting this time twelve Month as formerly

NB; Since this time it has Annually continued

1681



# Yearly Meeting

359

1681  
woles

1681

Yearly Meeting in Wales ~~agreed to be held~~  
about a month before that of London.

1688

1690

1691

1688 &c

See Representatives, anno, 1688, 1690, 1691, p 269.

1691

1691

Agreed that Friends of the West of England  
Bristol may have a Yearly Meeting for Worship at Bristol.

1695

1695

Intent of  
all our  
Assemblies  
&c

The good and blessed Intent & End of this, &  
all our Assemblies, is, with the Lords Assistance, for  
his Honour, in the promoting & maintaining of our  
Christian Society and Religion in life & practice in  
all the parts and branches thereof.

1696

1696

See Epistles, page, 101.

1697

1697

Women  
publick  
Friends

Ordered that such faithfull Women Friends as  
have a publick Testimony, that there in the City at  
the time of the Yearly Meeting may have their liberty  
to sit with their Ministering Brethren at their Second  
Days morning Yearly Meeting for Worship.

1698

1698

Notion  
Yearly  
Meeting

Proposition that Friends may have a Yearly  
Meeting for Worship only for <sup>their</sup> comfort, and to provoke one  
another to love and good Works for the Counties of  
Cumberland Westmorland Lancashire & Cheshire &  
any other neighbouring Counties that are free to join  
with them consented untill this meeting shall

otherwise



## Yearly Meeting.

1698 otherwise direct and upon condition that it may ~~may~~ not interfere with the Service & power of this Meeting.

1699.

1699 Declared, that it was and is the intent of this Meeting, that those Meetings which are or shall be held yearly in any of the Counties or places in England, distinct from this Meeting, be only for Worship also that they continue only from Year to Year, entirely subject to the Advice of this Meeting.

1700

1700 See Representatives. pages, 269, 270

1706

1706 See Questions, pages, 248.

1707

1707 Agreed that when this meeting directs the Morning Meeting or any other Meeting to a Service that henceforth the said Meeting should be provided to give Account to the next Yearly Meeting.

1709

1709 Representatives not to go out of Town before the Meeting ends. — See Representatives, p. 270.  
And see Meetings for Discipline, p. 151.

1710

1710 It is the desire and agreement of this Meeting that the Business and Concerns thereof be solely in the Fear of God; managed and carried on without Contention or Striving, and with a few Words, and in as pertinent Expressions to the Matter in hand as may be for Expedition of the Affairs thereof without loss of time, or any ways disordering the Meeting.

Orderly  
managing  
the Business

But one at a Time speaking and standing up: that all things may be done decently and in good order.



# Yearly Meeting 361

1718

1718 *The intent and designe of Yearly Meetings.* Friends are reminded that the intent and holy designe of our annual Assemblies in their first Constitution was for a great and weighty oversight and Christian Care of the Affairs of the Churches pertaining to our holy profession and Christian Communion, that good order, true Love, Unity and Concord may be faithfully followed and maintained among all of us, as a peculiar People called ~~of~~ chosen out of the World, and the Errors & Corruptions thereof; knowing also that sincere Love & Union in general, will be a great cause of Truths prosperity among ourselves, and the prevalency thereof over the World, and the Spirit of it, all which seriously considered, we sincerely desire and humbly hope, that God will graciously please more and more to put into the hearts of Friends and Brethren to be Jealously concerned that universal Love, true Union, peace & Concord be followed & maintained in all the Churches of Christ, and all the contrary as enmity Division Discord and Strife, watched against and shut out for ever, that the power and peace of our God may prevail and rule in all our hearts more & more whereunto we are called in one Body that the God of Love & Peace may be with us for ever which is the earnest Desire and Travel of the Souls of all the faithful.

1719

1719 *Resolved.* that the several Meetings do commit the Epistles of the Yearly Meeting, whether printed or written to the Custody of some suitable and able Friend, to whom Friends may have recourse as Occasion requires, or they may be read in Meetings at suitable Opportunities.

See Meetings for Discipline page 153.

1720



## Yearly Meeting

1720

1720  
A  
circular  
yearly  
meeting  
in the  
Western  
Counties

By a proposal from the Yearly Meeting in  
Bristol held the 21<sup>st</sup> & 22<sup>nd</sup> Days of the third Month last  
sent by Samuel Bournas and Joseph Tibble.  
Desiring liberty from this meeting, to set up a circular  
Yearly Meeting for Worship, in the Counties of Corn-  
wall, Devon, Gloucester, Hereford, Somerset, Wilts, Worces-  
ter and Bristol; the first Circular Meeting to begin  
the second first Day, in the seventh Month next com-  
ing at Bradford. The said proposal being taken  
into consideration, it is agreed, that the said Circu-  
lar Meetings may be held provided it be with these  
Restrictions: first that the Meeting be for Worship  
only; and secondly that the time of holding the said  
Circular Yearly Meeting be in the seventh Month  
in every Year.

1731

1731

See Conversation, page 54.

1732

1732

It is agreed, that all papers to this Meeting  
from half Yearly, Quarterly or Monthly Meetings  
signed ought to be signed in such Meetings.

choosing  
cashiers

It is agreed, that for the future the Meeting for  
Sufferings shall nominate six Friends out of their  
own Members, to this Yearly Meeting in order for  
this Meeting to choose three out of them, instead of  
those who are to go out to be Cashiers for this Meeting's  
Stocks: and that the persons so nominated be such as  
are Members of the said Meeting.

1733



# Yearly Meeting.

363

1733

1733 <sup>method</sup> <sup>for choosing</sup> <sup>as Clerks</sup> Agreed that in order to prevent Debate in the Yearly Meeting respecting the Choice of a Clerk: that the several Meetings that are members of this Yearly Meeting be divided into five Districts as follows. viz<sup>t</sup>

## North.

Yorkshire, Durham, Northumberland, Cumberland, Westmoreland, Lancashire, Cheshire, Scotland

## South

London, Middlesex, Surrey, Sussex, Kent, Hampshire, Berkshire.

## East.

Essex, Colchester, Suffolk, Norfolk, Norwich, Lincolnshire, Cambridge shire & Ely, Huntingdonshire

## West

Cornwall, Devonshire, Dorsetshire, Somersetshire, Bristol, Wiltshire, Gloucestershire, Herefordshire, Worcestershire, North Wales, South Wales.

## Midland

Derbyshire, Leicestershire, Rutland, Warwickshire, Northamptonshire, Oxfordshire, Buckinghamshire, Bedfordshire, Hertfordshire, Nottinghamshire, Staffordshire.

And that a Clerk be annually chosen by one of the said Districts in the Course and order that they do now stand.

And that as the Clerk for the present Year is of the Northern District, so next year one to be chosen by the Friends of the Southern, and the year following by the East and the next succeeding Year by the West, and the year after that by the Midland District: and so on in a continual rotation untill the same shall be altered by the Yearly Meeting.

And



## Yearly Meeting

1733

And in order that the Election of a Clerk as afore-  
said may be made in a convenient manner we think  
it will be proper that the Meetings composing the  
District on whom the Election for that Year doth fall  
be first called over and the Names of the Representa-  
tives of such Meetings be first entered: and that they  
there immediately retire into the Chamber, in order  
to a nomination of a proper Person to propose to the  
Meeting for their Approbation as a Clerk for that  
Year

Advice concerning deputing proper persons to  
attend the Yearly Meeting. See Representatives page  
270. 271.

1735

1735  
Proposition  
to be in  
Writing

This Meeting desires that all propositions from  
any Monthly, Quarterly, or <sup>half yearly</sup> Yearly Meetings to this  
Meeting be delivered in Writing and Signed by one or  
of such Meetings

2 Days  
Morning  
Yearly  
Meeting

Ordered, that the second Days Morning  
Meeting which precedes every Yearly Meeting, do  
only consist of publick Friends, and such Friends  
as are or shall be pursuant to the minute of 1727,  
appointed to sit in the morning Meeting of London,  
or any other Meeting of Ministering Friends.

Conclusion  
of the  
Meeting

It is agreed, that immediately after the finish-  
ing of the Business of this Meeting, there be a reason-  
able Opportunity for ministering Friends, and others  
Members in the Wisdom of Truth, to speak  
what may be upon their Minds to mutual com-  
fort and Edification, and it is ordered, that at such  
times no persons be permitted to stay in the Meet-  
ing except publick Friends, Representatives  
Correspondents: after which it is agreed that  
publick parting Meeting be held.

1736



# Yearly Meeting

1365

1736 <sup>1736</sup> Ordered. That all Letters directed to the Yearly  
Letters Meeting, except from such Meetings as regularly cor-  
respond therewith, be perused by a Committee, who  
are to consider and Report wheather the same be  
proper to be read in the Meeting or not.

1742 <sup>1742</sup> See Questions, page 247

1745 <sup>1745</sup> See Appeals, page 4

1746 <sup>1746</sup> See Representatives, page 271

<sup>1750</sup>

1750 <sup>See Representatives  
p. 271.</sup> This Meeting observing with great concern  
a deficiency in divers Counties in not duly attend-  
ing this Meeting. some being represented but by  
one Friend, and one without any. cannot but  
strongly recommend an observance of the Minutes  
in 1728 which directs that no less than four Friends  
should be appointed for each County, that in case  
of sickness or other accident, there may be a suf-  
ficient Number to answer the Service of the Meet-  
ing, by the want of which the Business is too often  
obstructed.

<sup>1760</sup>

1760 <sup>See Minutes  
p. 271.</sup> That Yearly Meeting held in Newport on  
Rhode Island it was agreed and concluded that the  
following method for constituting Meetings of Ministers  
and Elders should be here added.

1. That in each Monthly Meeting some solid Friend  
of either or both Sexes be appointed for each particular  
Meeting as Elders to have the oversight of the Ministry,  
and to advise and counsel both the Ministers at home and

such



# Yearly Meeting.

1760 such who Travel amongst them as they in the Wisdom of Truth may see necessary.

2 That the Ministers in unity & Elders so appointed within the Compass of each Monthly Meeting, meet by themselves once in three months and wait to feel their minds seasoned with the Virtue of Truth, and then read the Queries, and make diligent enquiry into the State of their Members and form such Answers thereto as appears agreeable to their States the said Answers to be signed by their Clerks and some Friends appointed to attend the Quarterly Meeting of Ministers and Elders therewith where the Queries are again to be read, and answered, and at the Quarterly Meeting preceeding the Yearly Meeting that general Answers in Writing be drawn up and transmitted from thence to the Yearly Meeting of Ministers and Elders by Friends appointed to attend the same and that the Ministers in unity & Elders appointed as above directed shall be only deemed proper Members of said Meetings.

3. That where any Friends come forth by way of publick Ministry that the Elders and those of Experience have a tender Care over them and after a suitable time of tryal if their Conversations be clean and blameless and Friends are convinced that the Lord hath called them to that weighty Work, that then the Monthly Meeting to which they belong do recommend them to the Quarterly Meeting of Ministers (by a minute signed by the Clerk) and that they then may set in the Meetings of Ministers & Elders.



46

